

Comprehensive Plan *Background Studies*



*Our goal is to assist
elected decision makers
in the development of a plan
for the city's future
which reflects the vision,
needs and values of the
citizens of Idaho Falls.*

June 2010

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INTRODUCTION

The Idaho Local Land Use Planning Act requires each jurisdiction in the State to create a comprehensive plan. The plan must address 14 specified elements including demographics, public facilities inventories, and land use trends. This section addresses nine of the 14 required components. Users of these background studies will be more familiar with the natural resources, special areas, infrastructure, and public facilities within the City of Idaho Falls. This report also addresses land use and housing patterns. Other components of the comprehensive plan can be found in the policy statements and social and economic profile.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

The natural resources surrounding Idaho Falls provide few limitations to growth. The area is endowed with fertile soils and abundant groundwater. There are few conditions requiring extensive mitigation efforts or costly expenditures for construction and maintenance. This section describes attributes of the environment surrounding Idaho Falls and their effects on potential development. Most of this information has been obtained from federal and state sources.

Soils

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service provides information for planning urban land uses in terms of soil qualities and characteristics. Table 10 of the Department's publication Soil Survey of Bonneville County Area, Idaho outlines the area's soils and their imposed limitations on development. The data provided in the soil maps and tables is intended for general land use planning rather than site specific planning. The information also has certain limitations. For example, data applies only to soils within five to six feet of the surface. The soil maps provided by the Conservation Service can still be used to evaluate the potential of areas for urban development, evaluate routes for roadways and utilities, and predict performance of proposed small structures and pavements on the soils. For site development specific on-site investigation or testing and analysis should still occur.

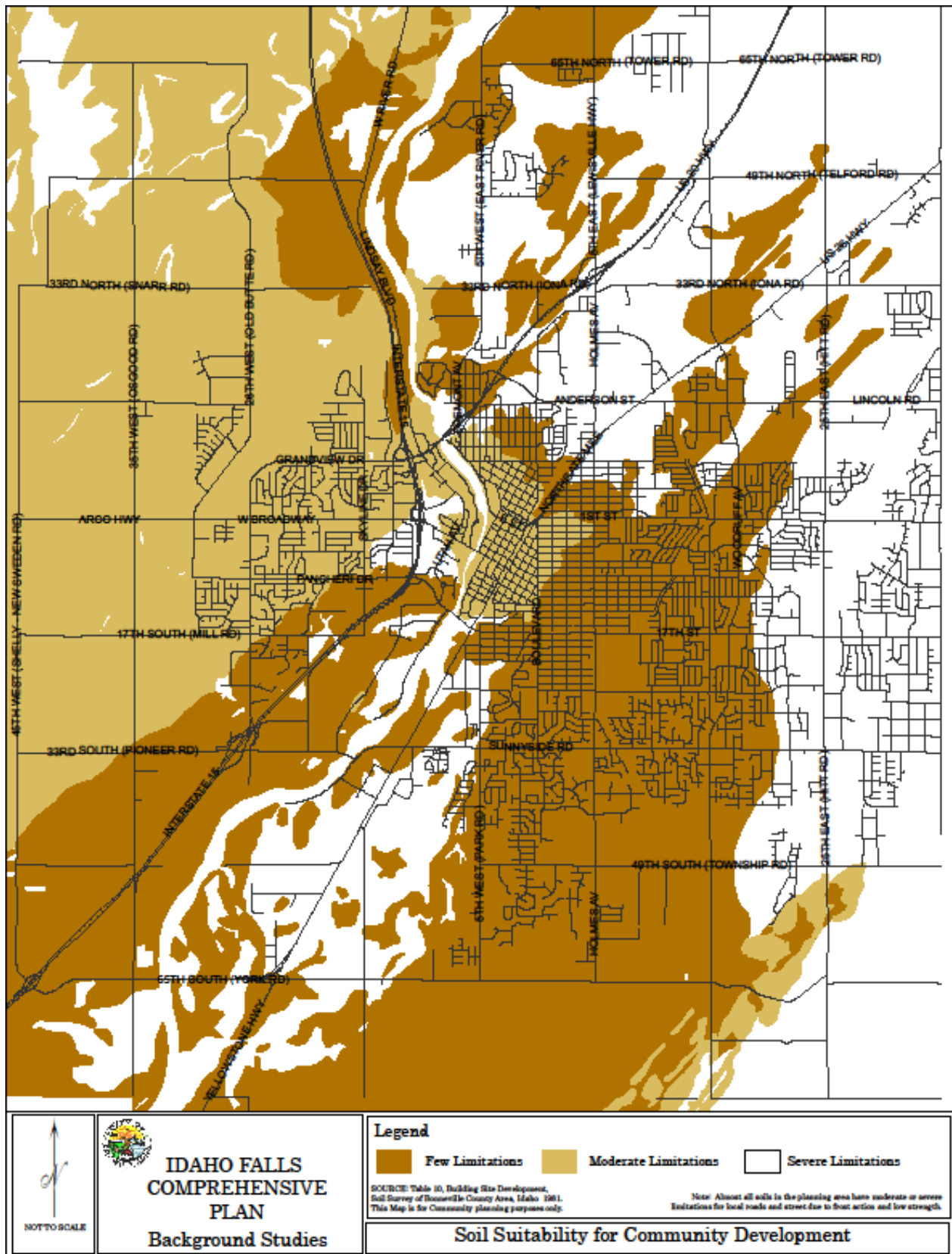
The Conservation Service has determined the kind and degree of soil limitations affecting shallow excavations, dwellings with and without basements, small commercial buildings, and local roads and streets. The limitations are grouped as follows:

<i>Slight</i>	Soil properties and site features are generally favorable to the indicated use. Limitations are minor and easily overcome.
<i>Moderate</i>	Soil or site features are not favorable for the indicated use and special planning, design, or maintenance is needed to overcome or minimize the limitations
<i>Severe</i>	Soil properties or site conditions are so unfavorable or so difficult to overcome that special design, significant increases in construction costs, and possible increased maintenance are required.

Soils and their limitations for dwellings with basements and small commercial buildings are shown on Map 1. Soils with slight or few limitations are concentrated to the south of 17th Street and east of South 5th West (Park-Taylor Road) as well as adjacent to I-15 south of Pancheri Drive. The area generally west of Skyline Drive and surrounding the municipal airport is an area of soils with moderate limitations for dwellings and commercial buildings. These limitations are primarily related to soils with low strength. Severe limitations for development are due to depth to bedrock and a history of flooding or high water.

Most of the soils in the planning area have moderate or severe limitations for local roads and streets. Soils with severe limitations are located in the northeast corner and eastern edge of the planning area. In these areas construction and maintenance of local roads and streets is limited by a history of high water and flooding and frost action. The remainder of the planning area has moderate limitations for roadways due to low soil strength and frost action. Because of soils, maintenance costs may always be an issue in the planning area.

Appendix A contains a list of the soils in the planning area with slight, moderate, and severe limitations.



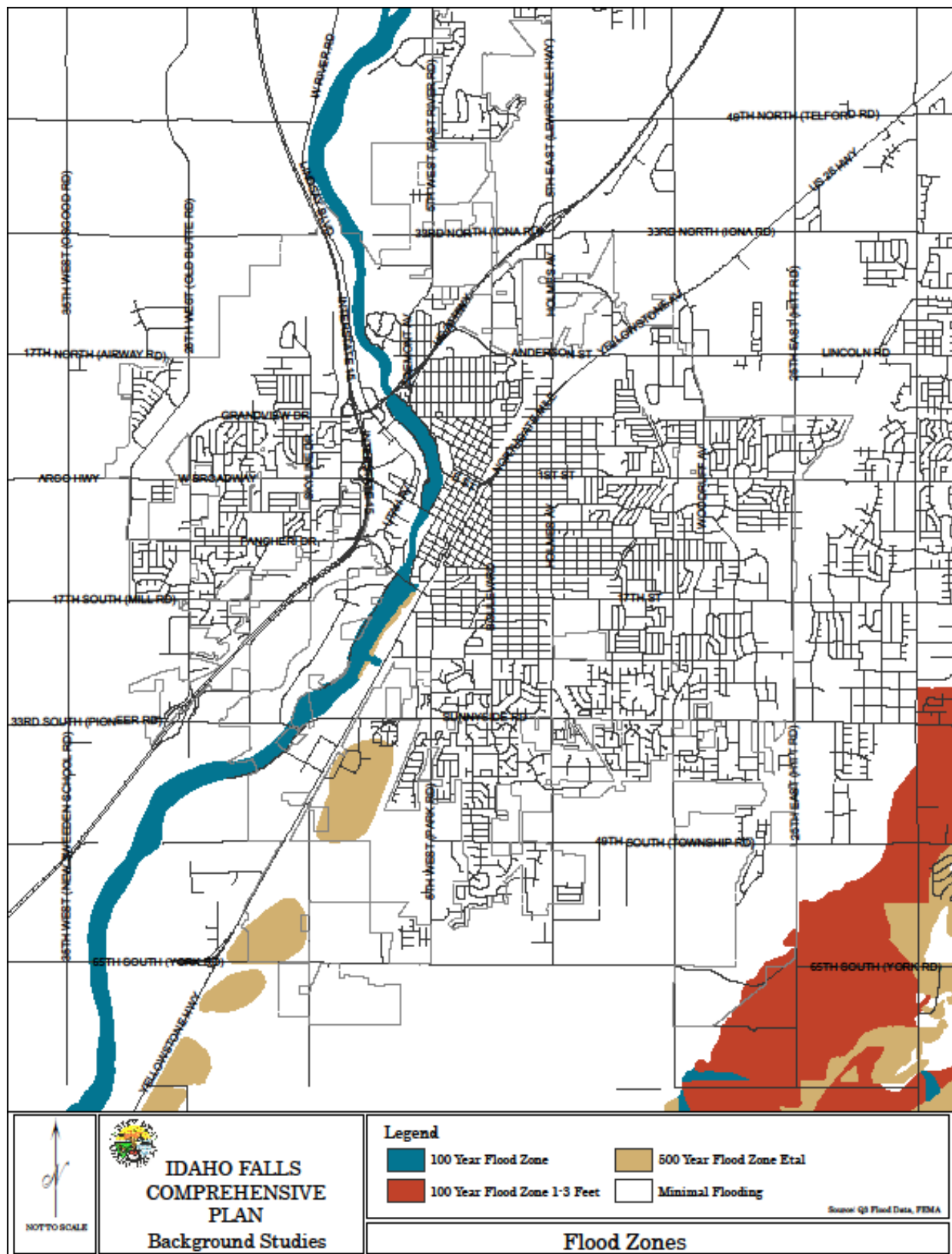
Map 1

Floodplains

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared maps of the 100 and 500 year floodplains within Idaho Falls and Bonneville County. Statistically, 100 year floods are those floods which have a 1% chance of occurring with a given year. The 100 year floodplain is the land that will be covered by such a flood.

Map 2 shows locations of all flood zones within the planning area. 100 and 500 year floodplains are found in the southeastern corner, east of Sand Creek and Hitt Road. 500 year flood plains are also located in the area south of Sunnyside Road between the Union Pacific railroad track and Park Road.

Within the City of Idaho Falls, the 100 and 500 year floodplains are limited to the area immediately adjacent to the Snake River. As noted by FEMA in its flood insurance study, very little of the land adjacent to the Snake River within the City of Idaho Falls is flood prone due to the incised nature of the River. Willow Creek is the only other area which may experience some flooding due to plugged culverts during winter time.



Map 2

Wetlands

Historically wetlands have been regarded as having marginal utility for land use and have been the object of severe misuse. In the past few decades, however, wetlands have found a solid place in the national environmental agenda. Wetlands are integral parts of the hydrologic system necessary for the maintenance of water quality and water supplies for human consumption as well as habitat necessary for the survival of a host of animal species.

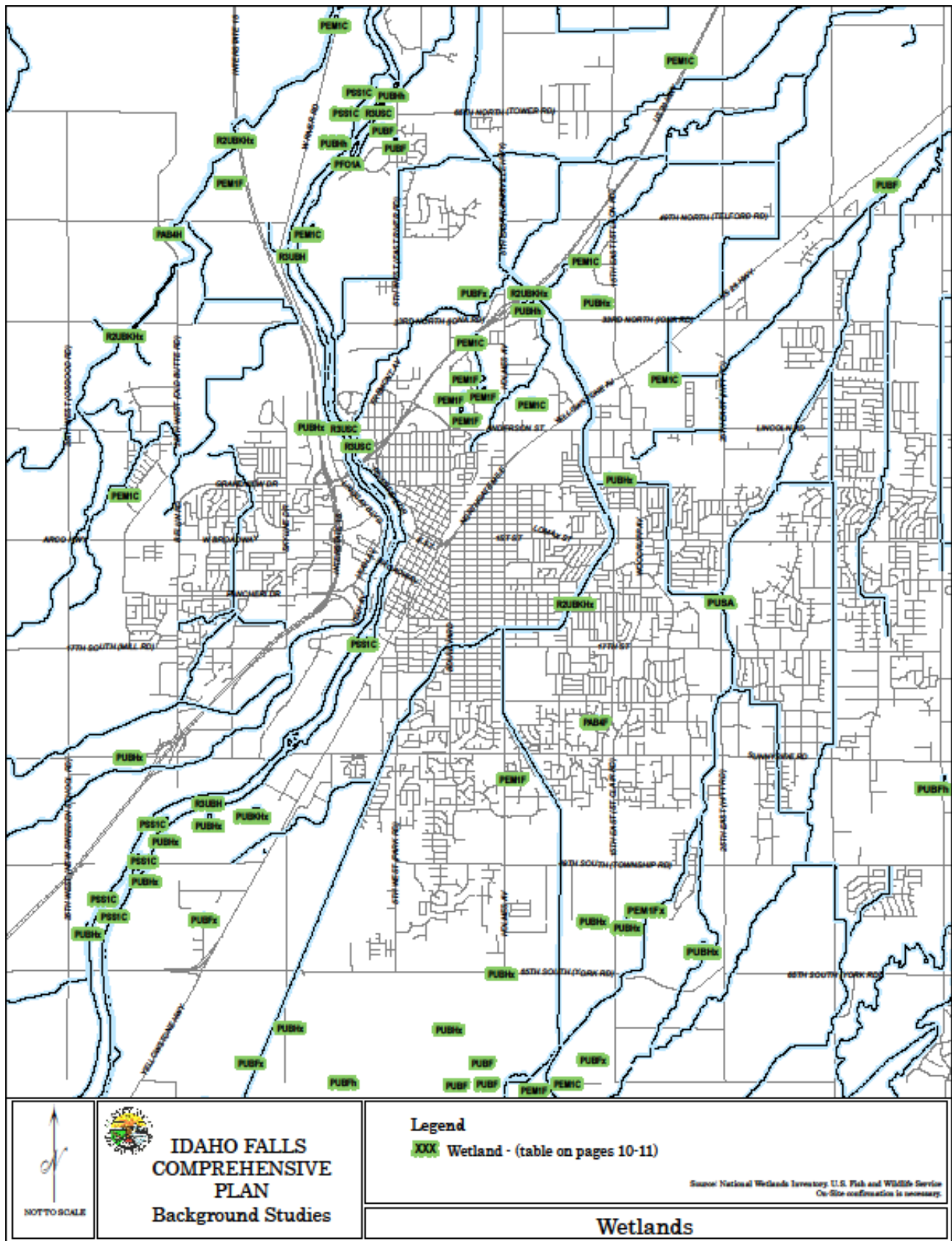
Although vital to environmental quality, wetlands present severe limitations to development. Attempts to build in wetlands may significantly increase development costs because of the need for special allowances for site drainage, flood protection, and facility maintenance. Most wetlands are underlain by organic soils which are unstable for development and require extensive engineering.

Wetlands are generally defined as lands having at least the following three characteristics:

- The presence of water (usually relatively shallow water) on the surface all or part of the year
- The presence of distinctive soils, often with high organic contents, which are clearly different from upland soils.
- The presence of vegetation composed of species adapted to wet soils, surface water, and or flooding.

The U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service has developed the National Wetlands Inventory. The inventory maps were prepared using high altitude aerial photographs, and wetlands were identified using vegetation, visible hydrology, and geography. These maps are essentially a “red flag” or a signal that on-site investigation and analysis is necessary prior to development. In addition, not all wetlands will be identified on the inventory. Small wetlands and those covered by dense forest cover may be excluded. The maps are available through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the three agencies primarily responsible for the federal wetlands regulatory review process.

The results of the National Wetlands Inventory for the planning area are shown on Map 3. Wetlands in the area are predominantly along the Snake River and the numerous canals although there are other small, scattered wetlands in other parts of Idaho Falls. A key to the map symbols is found on the following pages.

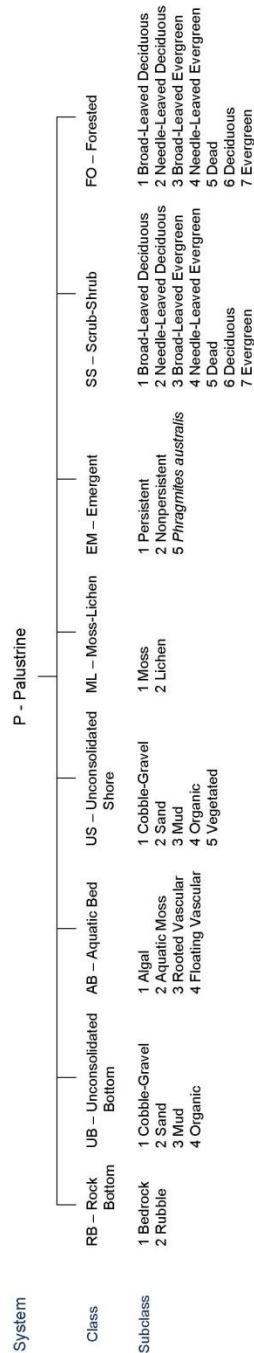
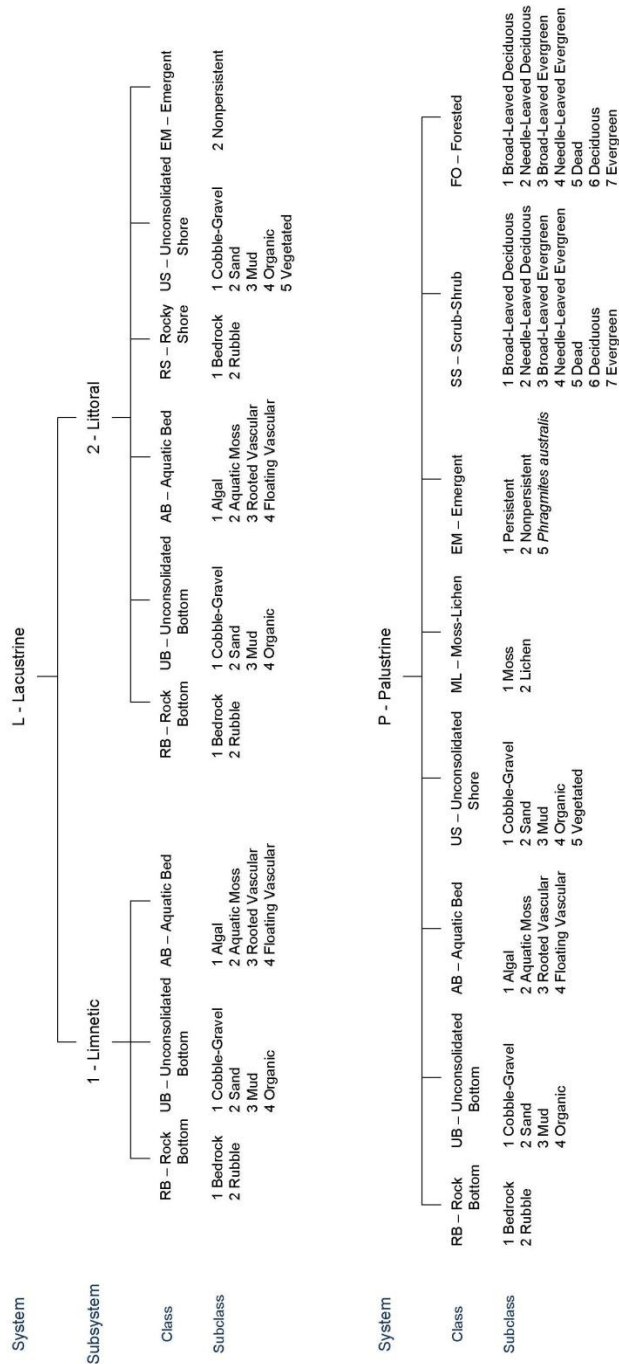


Map 3

SOURCE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1



WETLANDS AND DEEPWATER HABITATS CLASSIFICATION



MODIFIERS				
In order to more adequately describe the wetland and deepwater habitats, one or more of the water regime, water chemistry, soil, or special modifiers may be applied at the class or lower level in the hierarchy. The farm modifier may also be applied to the ecological system.				
Water Regime		Water Chemistry		Soil
Nontidal	Saltwater Tidal	Coastal Halinity	Inland Salinity	pH Modifiers for all Fresh Water
	Freshwater Tidal			
A Temporally Flooded	L Subtidal	1 Hyperhaline	7 Hypersaline	a Acid
B Saturated	M Irregularly Exposed	2 Eulhaline	8 Eulhaline	t Circumneutral
C Seasonally Flooded	N Regularly Flooded	3 Mixohaline (Brackish)	9 Mixohaline	l Alkaline
E Seasonally Flooded/ Saturated	P Irregularly Flooded	4 Polyhaline	0 Fresh	
F Semipermanently Flooded		5 Mesohaline		
G Intermittently Exposed		6 Oligohaline		
H Permanently Flooded		0 Fresh		
J Intermittently Flooded				
K Artificially Flooded				

SOURCE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2

SPECIAL AREAS INVENTORY

Under Idaho statutes, special areas are those areas, sites, or structures of historical, archaeological, ecological, wildlife, or scenic significance. While this section will identify such known areas in the City, some, such as wetlands, have been identified already elsewhere. This section will also identify those features, locations or characteristics identified and valued by Idaho Falls' citizens and visitors.

Scenic Areas

Snake River

Idaho Falls began as a convenient, safe location to cross the Snake River and proceed north to gold fields first in Montana, later in Idaho. It grew and prospered when the waters of the Snake were siphoned into canals and turned out on the land. Its place in Idaho's history was assured when the River's energies were harnessed to produce power. The development of the Greenbelt, with its paths and gathering spaces, symbolizes the importance of the River in the City's existence.

Taylor Mountain

Idaho Falls is located on the Snake River floodplain on nearly level, very deep, well drained soils. Taylor Mountain, with an altitude of 7,400 feet, visually dominates the landscape southeast of Idaho Falls. The mountain is named after Sam Taylor who settled at the mouth of Taylor Creek in 1872. Two years earlier Sam had come to Eagle Rock where his cousin, Matt Taylor, had built a bridge to cross the Snake. While Matt sold his interest in the bridge in 1872 and returned to Missouri in 1886, Sam stayed and ranched with his brother.

Sand Dunes

Sand dunes are located adjacent to Sandy Downs Race Track and Sand Creek Golf Course. The dunes, although not extensive, offer a unique recreational opportunity to the residents of the city. In 2007, the Idaho Falls Parks and Recreation Division prepared a master plan concept for Sandy Downs. The dunes remained in the concept and are surrounded on the west and southeast by a path and passive recreation area and green space. The plan considered the opinions and ideas from citizens as expressed in surveys, public hearings, and a community needs assessment.

Historic Resources

Idaho Falls does not have a local designation program for historic preservation. However, there are several properties within Idaho Falls listed on the National Register of Historic Places, either as part of a multiple property survey or as contributing in a district. Since the city does not have a program for local designation, there are no protections for historic properties unless federal monies are used to modify or demolish historic properties.

The identified historic properties are concentrated in the downtown area, the Ridge Avenue Historic District, the 11th Street Historic District, and the Idaho Falls Airport Historic District. There are also several historic properties outside of these areas. Historic downtown properties are shown on Map 4 (pg. 17) and the various Historic Districts are on Map 5 (pg. 18). The criteria used by the Idaho Falls Historic Preservation Commission to identify these properties are those used for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. There are three key concepts in designating properties historic: historic significance, historic integrity, and historic context. To be significant historically, a property over fifty years in age must be associated with important local events or activities, must be associated with important local persons, have distinctive characteristics of design or construction such as Craftsman bungalows, or, if an archaeological site, have the potential to yield important information. To have historic integrity, a

property must look essentially as it did when it was constructed or became important. It has to retain the physical materials, design features, and aspects of construction from the period of significance. The historic context provides the framework for importance and links the property to important local trends such as community growth and development or national architectural trends.

Downtown

In 1984, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) nominated fifteen downtown properties for inclusion on the National Register. The nomination was for multiple properties since the surveyor did not find a sufficient concentration of properties downtown for a district. The fifteen properties included the Idaho Falls City Hall, Bonneville County Courthouse, Bonneville Hotel, Hotel Idaho, Montgomery Ward Building, Underwood Hotel, Kress Building, Bonneville Historical Society Museum, Rocky Mountain Bell Building (subsequently demolished), Shane Building, Farmers and Merchants Bank Building, Douglas-Farr Building (subsequently demolished), Hasbrouck Building, IOOF Building, and Idaho Falls Federal Building. The listing of these buildings complemented the earlier listing of the Trinity United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church.

In 2008, a nomination was prepared for a National Register district downtown and was submitted and approved by the Idaho Historic Sites Review Board. The National Park Service, in its review of the proposed district, offered comments which are now being addressed by the Idaho Falls Historic Preservation Commission. Park Avenue is the heart of the proposed district, and properties within the district include structures which gained their significance in the 1930's and 1940's, a period of significance later than the 1984 nomination prepared by SHPO.

Ridge Avenue Historic District

The Ridge Avenue Historic District includes 143 buildings of which 93 were contributing when the district was nominated in 1993. The district includes portions of Ridge Avenue and portions of Water Avenue and Placer Avenue. The district became the city's prominent residential neighborhood between 1895 and 1920, the city's first major period of growth. The homes within the district are a representation of the acceptable residential styles found in southeastern Idaho in the early twentieth century.

11th Street Historic District

Listed in 1997, the 11th Street Historic District reflects the agricultural fortunes of the city and Idaho. The district grew substantially during the 1910s, faltered during the agricultural depression of the 1920s, and completed its growth during the Depression when Idaho, especially the Snake River region, experienced substantial in-migration. The houses strongly represent the architectural styles popular for homes in the region and country from 1900 to 1945. Set in a streetscape lined with trees, open front porches, and narrow front yards, this is a fine example of the residential neighborhoods developed throughout the country in the first half of the 20th century.

Idaho Falls Airport Municipal District

This district consists of a hangar, administrator's cabin, a beacon tower, and surrounding landscaped area. The hangar and cabin are constructed of hand-hewn, peeled, native white pine logs. The surrounding acreage is fully landscaped with a lush lawn or grasses bordered by lilac, Russian olive and small pine. Constructed by the Works Progress Administration between 1930 and 1937, the facilities completed the Idaho Falls Municipal Airport as a fully operational air transport facility capable of servicing planes, people, and airmail. In the early 1960's, the old log two story administration building with second floor open porches was removed, leaving only a foundation and old photographs. No other WPA aviation structure in Idaho has retained the integrity found in the log hangar.

Holy Rosary Church

In 2002 the Holy Rosary Church on the southeast corner of 9th Street and Lee Avenue was listed on the

National Register of Historic Places. The church is a fine example of a small church with a design inspired by the English Gothic style. Built in 1948, it has wide pointed arches, side buttresses, and contrasting decorative trim. The building is also an excellent example of the work of one of Idaho's most outstanding architectural firms, Hummel, Hummel, and Jones of Boise, Idaho.

New Sweden School

Just outside the area of impact on the southwest corner of New Sweden School Road (35th West) and Mill Road (West 17th South) sits the New Sweden School. Built in 1927 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991, the now vacant school retains its historic integrity. The building is architecturally significant as an excellent example of multiple-classroom public schools built to replace the earlier one room schools. The school was used until 1980 when the New Sweden school district was consolidated into School District 91.

Art Troutner Houses Historic District

The Art Troutner Houses Historic District consists of three single-family homes built on about 7.5 acres in 1955-1956. The district is being surrounded by Idaho Falls with Carriagegate Subdivision to the south and west and Bristol Heights to the east. The first home built was designed in an A-frame configuration and was the Helen Aupperle studio. The second home built on the site was constructed for Dr. Dauchy and Fran Migel and is a single-story structure laid out as a clipped triangular star of three wings. The third home built for Fran Migel's mother, Ada Poitevin, is a single-story structure with essentially sixteen sides. All three houses were designed by Arthur L. Troutner, an Idaho inventor, architect, and entrepreneur. Troutner invented the Truss Joist, a lightweight, easy to assemble building element to serve as floor joists or roof beams, and developed Micro-Lam, a method of finger-joint splicing short segments of 2x4 boards into one long beam. As an example of modern architecture, these three single-family homes designed and built by Art Troutner embody the mid-20th century shift from the traditional box to new and experimental forms.

Other Historic Properties

The Idaho Falls Historic Preservation Commission has been working with interested property owners and others to list Funland in Tautphaus Park, the WPA log buildings in Tautphaus Park, early residential neighborhoods in the Lava and Basalt Street area, homes or neighborhoods in the numbered streets, and significant individual homes in Idaho Falls.

Special Areas Identified Through Citizen Participation Events

The Idaho Falls Planning Commission has held three community wide citizen participation events since 1992. Each of these events involved 1,900 residents and visitors, and each began at a local grocery store. In 1992, when asked for the best features of Idaho Falls, the respondents' top three answers were:

- Snake River Greenbelt
- The City's parks and zoo
- Idaho Falls Public Library

In 2005, residents and visitors again at local grocery stores answered the best features were:

- Snake River and Greenbelt
- City parks, including Tautphaus Park and Zoo
- Community character (cleanliness, friendliness, small town, landscaping/flowers)
- Downtown

Community Comments about Special Areas

The special places within Idaho Falls include the best features listed above – those valued by its citizens and its visitors.

As a result of these citizen participation efforts, the document *Community Viewpoints and Priorities* tied citizen comments to the special areas enumerated in the existing comprehensive plan. These suggestions are excerpted below:

Tree Idaho Falls

People love the City's trees.

Entryways

People believe city entrances are unattractive approaches to the community.

The Snake River Greenbelt

People see the Snake River Greenbelt as the focal point of the city. There are some interesting comments concerning development and preservation of both the Snake River and greenbelt which support current policy.

Historic Resources

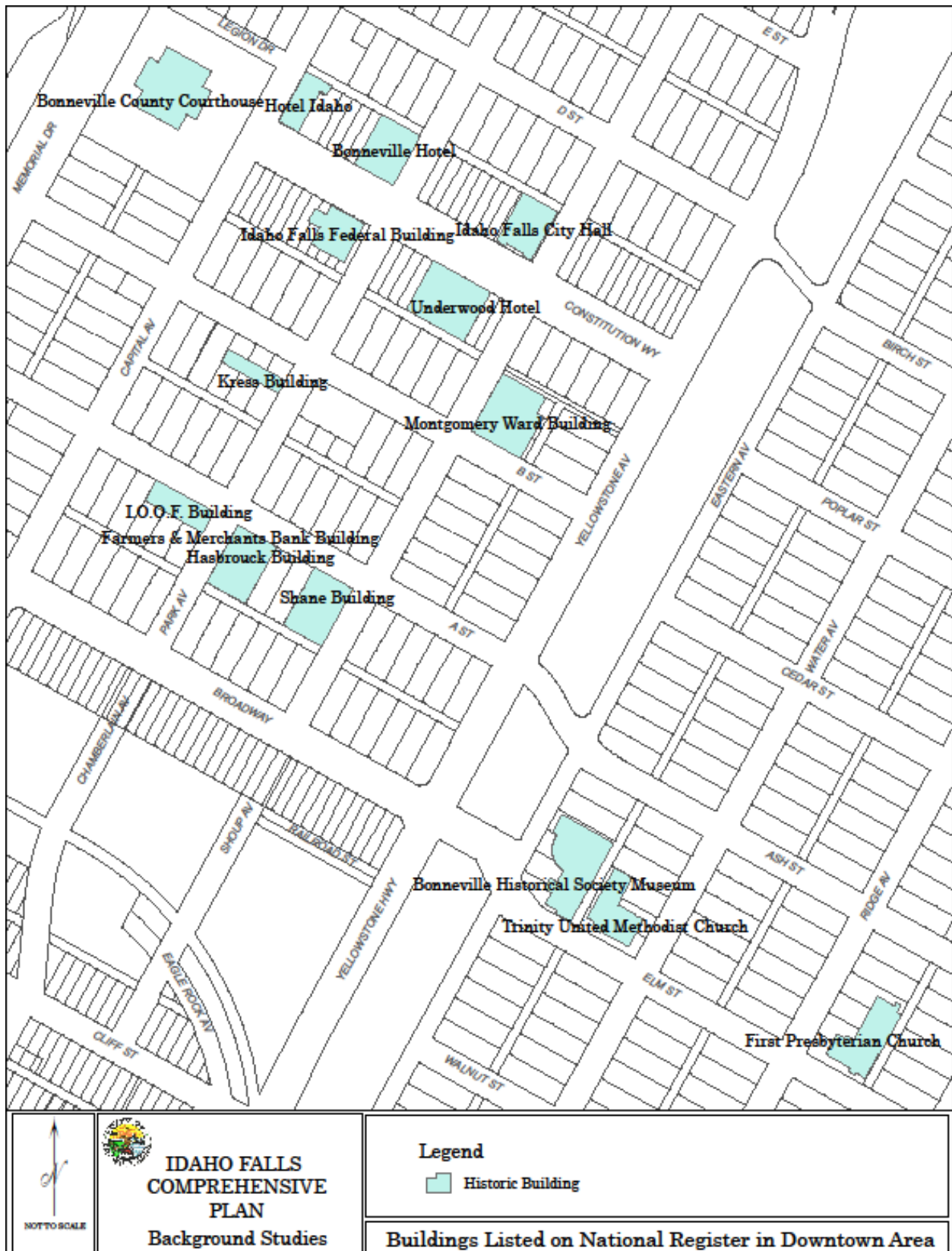
Not many people chose to comment on this policy. Of those that did, historic assets related to downtown and neighborhoods were mentioned.

Downtown

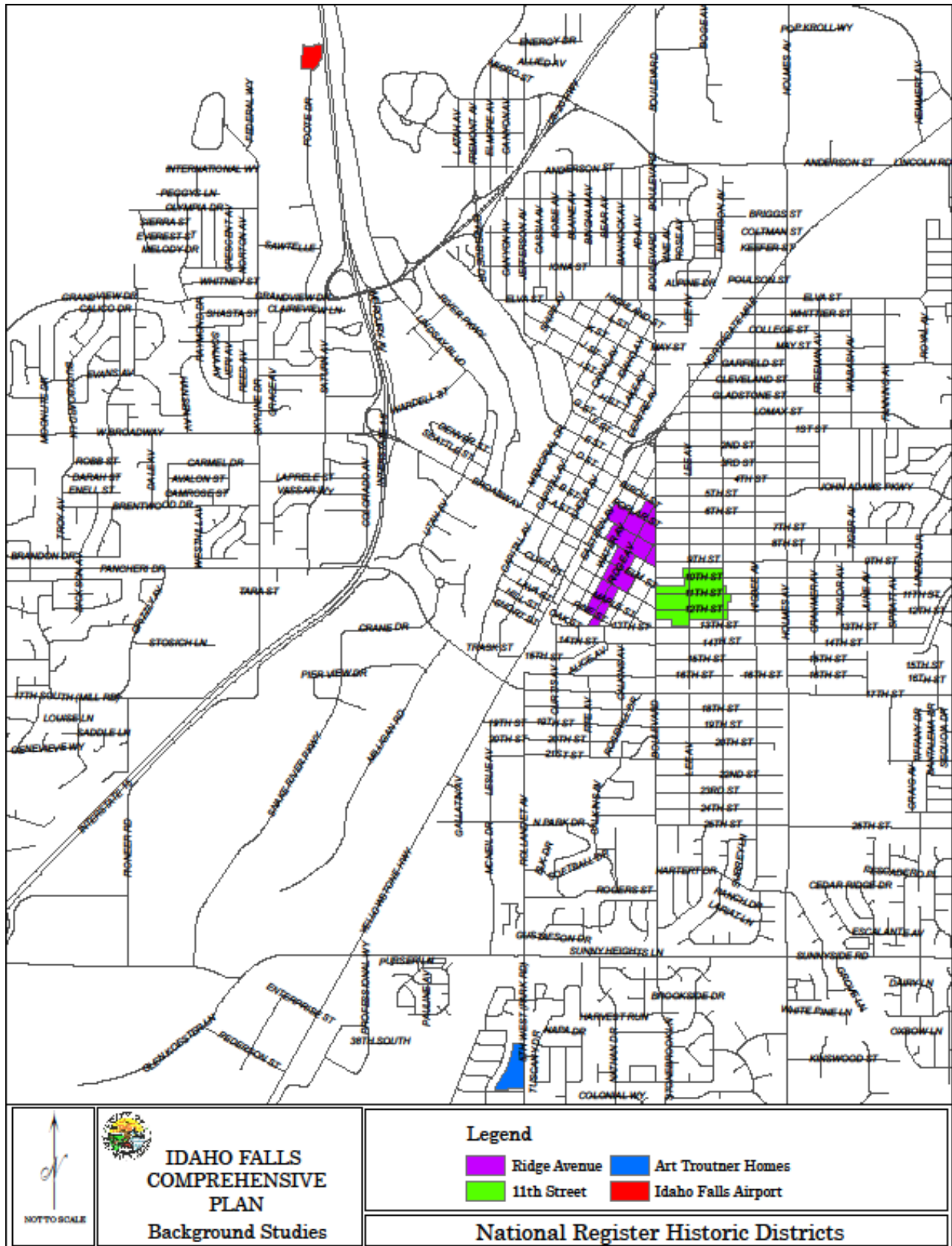
Downtown is a topic on many people's minds. People feel it is important for the city to have a viable downtown and there is a real fear that downtown will be lost if something isn't done soon. People said current revitalization efforts are positive and they really like the arts and cultural opportunities offered downtown. There is a strong perception that improvements in downtown parking are a key factor in downtown revitalization.

Transition Areas

There is minimal comment on redevelopment of existing neighborhoods.



Map 4



LAND USE

Map 5

Background

The purpose of this section is to provide an overview of general land use patterns and changes over the past 20 years since the last land use inventory was completed in 1987. Existing land use patterns provide a base for planning for future land uses. Besides looking at changes in land uses, this section also examines physical growth or expansion of the City's corporate boundaries and changes in zoning. The results are used to help guide the future land use map of the comprehensive plan.

Expansion of City Boundaries

In 1987 the City's boundaries encompassed approximately 8,760 acres of land. By 2008 the number of acres within the City increased 61% to 14,113; an average of 2.9% per year. Map 6 shows where this growth has taken place. The highest concentration of growth areas are south of Sunnyside Road with both residential, professional office, and industrial areas. There has also been strong growth on the north and west sides of the City with a mixture of residential, research and development, general commercial and industrial areas.

General Land Use Patterns

When the last land use study for Idaho Falls was conducted in 1987, Utah State University students walked or drove through city and inventoried each land use. Since that time, land use data has been updated primarily through tracking of building permits and GIS technology. Table 1 and Figure 1 below shows changes in general land uses over the past 20 years. Maps 7 shows existing land uses in 2008. It should be noted, however, defining land uses is not always simple and there be slight differences from the land use map found in previous editions of the comprehensive plan. There may be mixed uses in a particular building or it may be unclear how to categorize a use. Also, classification may vary from person to person. These variations are expected over a 20 year period but the purpose of this report is to examine general patterns of land use.

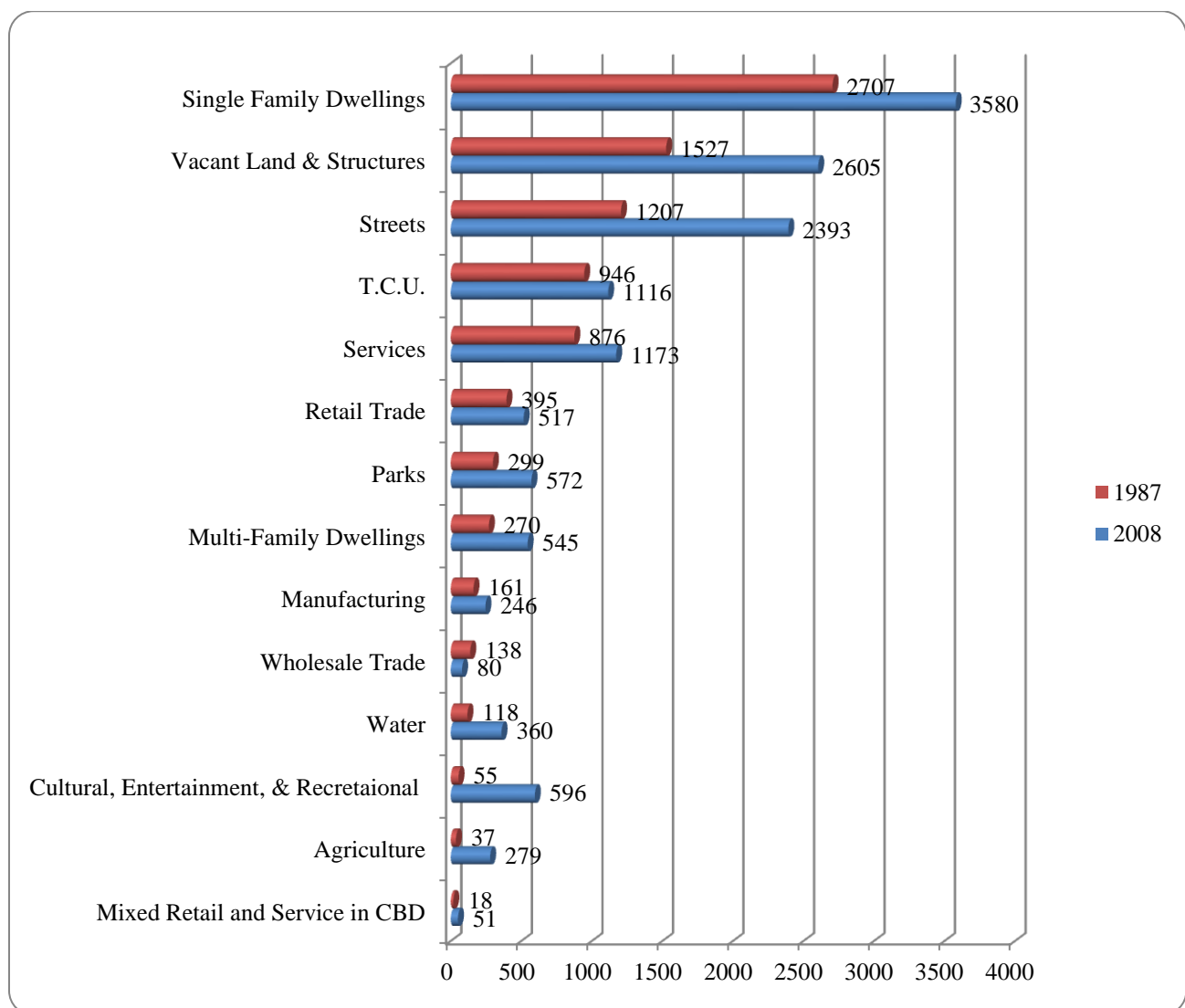
While most changes in land use are a product of normal growth over time, there a few categories which increased dramatically. Cultural, entertainment, and recreational activities increased 983% since 1987. Most of this growth is in golf courses. In 1987 Pinecrest and Sandcreek golf courses were not counted in the land use study. In 2008 these two courses as well as Sage Lakes were counted as recreational activities. Agriculture land use grew 654% in 20 years. This is due to change in how land is annexed and developed. In the past, land was not annexed until it was ready to be platted and developed. More recently, developers have requested annexation prior to platting. This has led to many acres being annexed into the City while still being used for agriculture until development occurs.

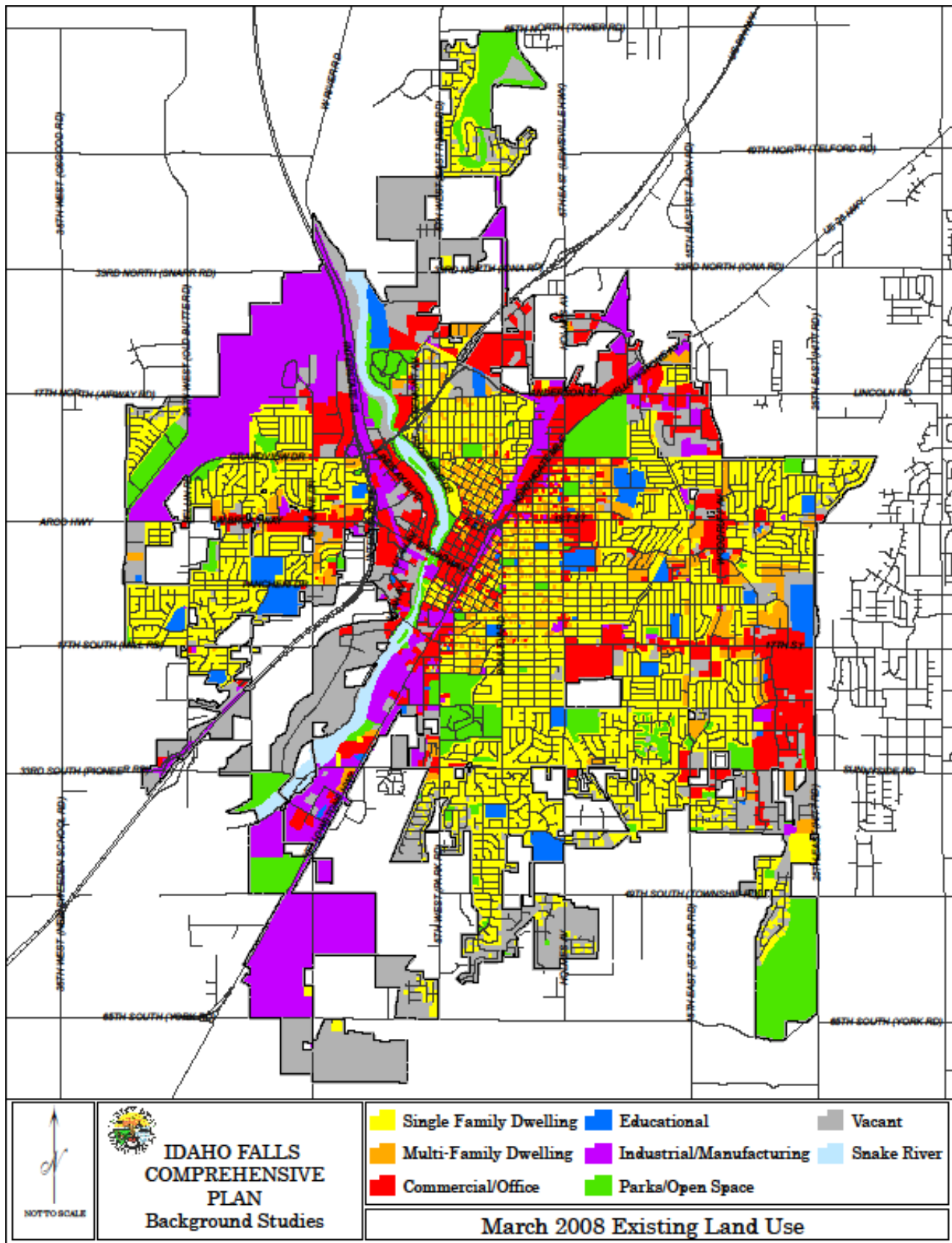
Table 1 Land Use Changes 1987 - 2008			
Land Use	1987 Acres	2008 Acres	%Change
Single Family DU's	2707	3508	32.2%
Vacant Land & Structures	1527	2605	70.5%
Streets	1207	2393	98.2%
T.C.U.	946	1116	17.9%
Cultural, Entertainment, & Recreational Activities	55	596	983.6%
Parks	299	572	91.3%
Multi-Family DU's	270	545	101.8%
Retail Trade	395	517	30.8%
Water	118	360	205%
Agriculture	37	279	654%
Manufacturing	161	246	52.7%
Wholesale Trade	138	80	-42%
Mixed Retail & Service in CBD	18	51	183.3

Finally, mixed uses in the Central Business District increased 183%. This is mostly due to differences in reporting methods over the two time periods. Although mixed uses have not increased so dramatically, an important difference in the downtown area is the number vacancies have decreased since 1987.

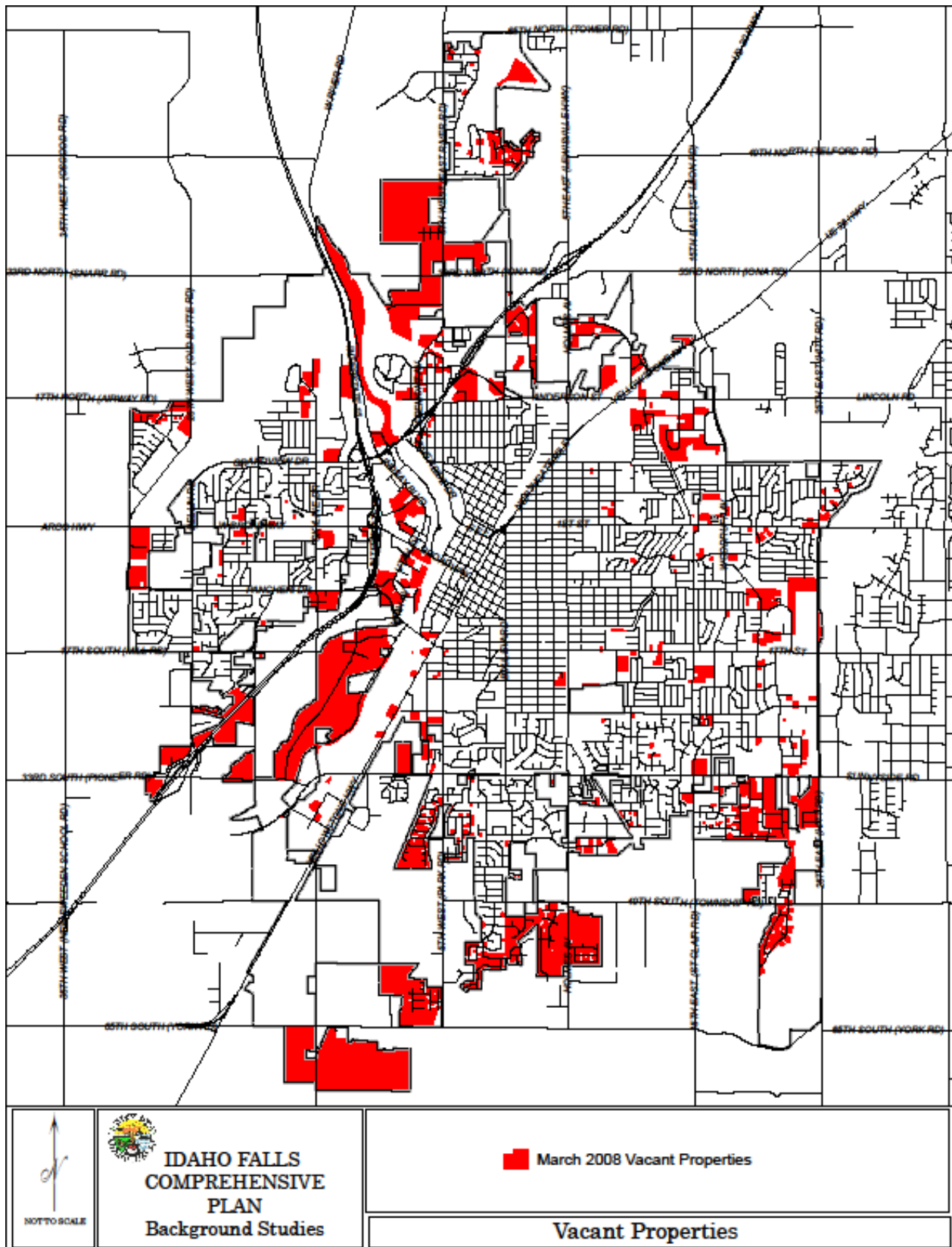
As mentioned above, annexation prior to platting has become an increasing trend. Besides creating a greater percentage of agricultural land uses within the City, it has also increased the percentage of vacant land. In 1987 vacant land and structures made up 17% of land use in Idaho Falls. In 2008 vacant land and structures increased to just over 18% of land use. Map 8 shows the locations of vacant lands. While there are vacancies in developing subdivisions, there are also a high number of acres which have been annexed but are not yet platted or developing.

Figure 1
Land Use Changes 1987-2008





Map 7



Map 8

Zoning

Trends in residential zoning have not changed dramatically since 1987. R-1 single-family is still the most heavily used zone. There have been some increases in RP-A, R-3, and R-3A but the other residential zones have remained basically unchanged. One notable change is the increase in R-3. Although R-3 zoning in the past was used as a high density housing zone, some single family developments in the City began using R-3 zoning because of the narrow side yard setbacks. Table 2 shows changes in residential zones between 1987 and 2008. Although the table shows a few of the zones have decreased, these differences are a result in measurement discrepancies. When this report was done in 1987, areas were measured by hand and subject to human error. Today, GIS data is used for measurement and is more precise.

Table 2 Zoning Changes 1987-2008			
Zone	1987 (acres)	2008 (acres)	Percent Change
RP	53	37	-30.1%
RP-A	455	678	49%
R-1	3352	4784	42.7%
R-2	394	304	-22.8%
R-2A	192	140	-27%
R-3	171	279	63.1%
R-3A	642	766	19.3%
RMH	124	87	-29.8%

Housing

Based on numbers from the 2000 U.S. Census and City building permit records, there were approximately 22,038 housing units in the first part of 2008. This is a 37.6% increase from 1987. The majority of dwelling units are single family, but as of the 2000 U.S. Census Idaho Falls contained 93% of all multi-family dwellings in Bonneville County. Table 3 shows how the average density of development in each residential zone. Although a similar table was completed in 1987 it is not used here because it is unclear how land and densities were calculated at that time. The result is densities so different from 2008 calculations it would not be useful or accurate to compare them side by side. Table 3 densities were calculated by taking number of dwelling units divided by net acres of each zone, not including any churches, schools, or parks.

Table 3 Residential Development Net Densities 2008			
Zone	Units	Acres	Units per Acre
RP	101	37.2	2.7
RP-A	1,422	496.6	2.8
R-1	11,955	2,661	4.4
R-2	1,922	243.3	7.8
R-2A	1,257	121.2	10.3
R-3	2,049	193.2	10.6
R-3A	2,954	198.2	14.9
RMH	378	68.7	5.5

PUBLIC FACILITIES INVENTORY

Transportation

Background

Transportation and land use are closely linked. Historically, as modes and availability of transportation have changed, so too have urban patterns of development. When travel became faster and more affordable, residential uses spread further from work and shopping areas. But transportation encompasses more than just streets and highways for automobiles and trucks. It also includes public transportation, air transportation, rail, bikeways, pedestrian walkways, and vehicular parking. Increased demand for these alternative modes of travel is again changing the way we plan communities.

Idaho Falls Street System

Classification

The designation of functional classification provides a basis for planning for necessary right-of-way acquisition, signalization, and access management, all of which are necessary to provide and preserve roadway capacity. The City of Idaho Falls maintains over 325 miles of streets. Its roadway system is comprised of different classifications of streets depending on function:

Arterial streets: Arterial streets primarily move traffic between principal generators and are designed for the movement of traffic through and across the community at higher speeds. Generally arterial streets do not bisect neighborhoods. Direct residential access is strongly discouraged, and commercial access is limited. Traffic volumes are generally above 10,000 vehicles per day, and such arterial streets as 17th Street have volumes greater than 30,000 vehicles per day. The right-of-way for such streets ranges from 80 to 120 feet in width.

Principal arterial streets: The spacing for principal arterial streets is usually one to two miles, access is limited to major traffic generators only, the speed is 35 to 45 miles per hour, and parking is prohibited. Principal arterial streets are 5 - 10% of the street system.

Minor arterial streets: The spacing for minor arterial streets is one-half to one mile, the number and spacing of driveways is controlled, parking is generally prohibited but not always, and the speed is generally 30 to 35 miles per hour. Minor arterial streets comprise ten to twenty percent of the street system.

Collector streets: Collector streets provide access to local properties and also move moderate quantities of traffic between local streets and major streets. Collector streets penetrate neighborhoods and provide access to adjacent properties. Volumes are generally less than 10,000 vehicles daily. Collectors are typically spaced at one-quarter to one-half mile. The width of the right-of-way for collectors is usually 60 feet, although industrial collectors may be 70 in width. Speeds are generally 25 to 35 miles per hour.

Local streets: The primary purpose of local streets is to provide access to adjacent land. Each abutting property usually has access to the street, and parking is permitted on the street. Local streets make up a large percentage of the total street mileage but carry a small proportion of the vehicle miles of travel. Volumes generally fall below 1,000 vehicles per day, and speeds limits are usually 25 miles per hour.

Table 4 below provides information on the miles of street within the City and its classification:

Table 4 Functional Classifications		
Street Type	Miles	Percent of Total
Interstate (I-15)	8.83	2.6%
Expressway (U.S. 20)	6.23	1.8%
Principal arterial	26.8	7.8%
Minor arterial	28.55	8.3%
Collector	24.48	7.2%
Local streets	247.4	72.3%
Total	342.29	100%

SOURCE: GIS data based on existing comprehensive plan classifications

Operation and Maintenance

In the fiscal year 1989, according to the *Bonneville County Public Facilities Inventory*, the City of Idaho Falls Street Department had a budget of \$1.6 million and 21 employees. Today the street department still has 21 employees and the budget has increased to \$4.64 million.

Table 5 Street Department Budget and Employment 1989-2008					
Year	Estimated Population ¹	Percentage Increase	Street Department Employees	Street Department Budget	Amount Required for Same Buying Power as in 1989
1989	43,300	--	21	\$1.6 million	--
2008	57,388	31%	21	\$4.64 million	\$2.67 million

Priorities for Street Improvements

In the fall of 2007, the Idaho Department of Transportation and the City of Idaho Falls completed the interchange of I-15 with Sunnyside Road, a bridge over the Snake River, and the widening of Sunnyside Road, including a bicycle path, to Holmes Avenue. In 2006, the City of Idaho Falls, Ammon, and Bonneville County had widened Sunnyside Road to the east of Holmes Avenue. The interchange and Sunnyside Road had been a priority for the City since the 1965 Comprehensive Plan. In 2009 Hitt Road was widened from Meppen Canal north to Mesa Street. Other priorities for street improvements are:

- The widening and improvement of Panchari Drive, including the bridge over I-15.
- The improvement/replacement of the D Street underpass.
- Improvement of 17th Street at its intersections, especially the Holmes Avenue, Woodruff Avenue, and Hitt intersections.
- The construction of Old Butte Road extended to the south to 33rd South.

¹ SOURCE: *Intermountain Demographics*.

In 2005 the Planning Commission completed a citizen participation program to assist in updating the comprehensive plan. One of the main concerns of the citizens identified was traffic and city streets, which has consistently been a priority since the first citizen participation programs in 1992. In 2005, the streets mentioned most by the citizens as needing improvement were 17th Street, Hitt Road, Yellowstone Highway, Pancheri Drive, Woodruff Avenue, and Holmes Avenue. The top community priority identified by the citizens was the need to fund projects to reduce congestion on 17th Street, e.g., construction of turning lanes and traffic light synchronization. In 1997, a loop road or other mechanism to move traffic efficiently north-south and east-west had been a top priority. In 1997 of all community priorities listed for selection by residents, the highest priorities were the improvement of Sunnyside Road, Pancheri Road, and Hitt Road to at least four lanes.

Long-Range Priorities

The Bonneville Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMPO) provides regional transportation planning for the City of Idaho Falls, Ammon, Iona, Ucon, and the urbanizing areas of Bonneville County (also known as the Bonneville Metropolitan Planning Area or BMPA) in cooperation with the Idaho Transportation Department and Targhee Regional Public Transportation Authority. The BMPO has prepared a *2025 Long Range Transportation Plan*. Input for the plan comes from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a group of planners, engineers, and others from the various jurisdictions throughout the BMPA. Along with planning from the TAC, a traffic model is the primary tool used by BMPO to identify future traffic demand. Population and employment projections are used to estimate future number of trips, origin and destination, and the routes selected. Established historic trends and current conditions are the basis for forecasting future traffic demand.

Map 9 shows average daily traffic volumes for major roadways in the City. Maps 10 and 11 from the *2025 Long Range Transportation Plan* illustrate the 2010 and 2025 congestion locations based on the transportation model. 17th Street, Memorial Drive, the off ramp for I-15 at U.S. 20, and Channing Way north of 25th Street area all areas of congestion. In 2025, 17th Street remains a location of major congestion. Additional areas include Skyline south of West Broadway, U.S. 20 and I-15 interchange, Memorial Drive, and 1st Street east of Woodruff Avenue assuming the following improvements are completed by 2010 with “no-build” beyond these projects. Some of these projects however will not be complete by the end of 2010 so the models may not be completely accurate:

Major Projects Proposed to be Completed Prior to 2010 and Added to Traffic Model

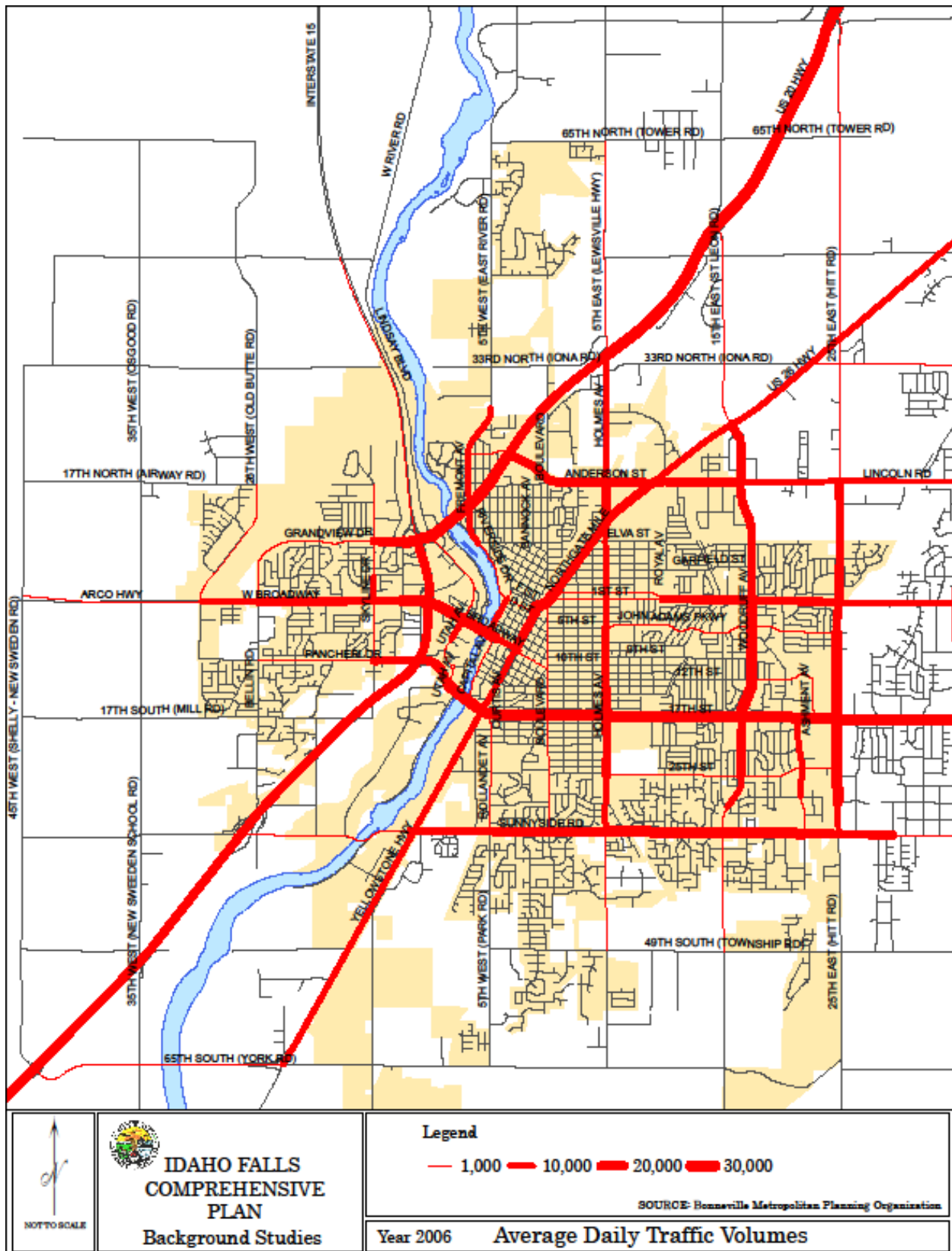
- Broadway signal coordination
- Pancheri Bridge
- Skyline Drive/Pancheri Drive intersection
- Hitt Road/1st Street turn bays
- Hitt Road/John Adams Parkway turn bays
- Woodruff Avenue/17th Street right turn bay
- Woodruff Avenue widening to US 26
- St. Clair/17th Street right turn bays
- Skyline Drive/Grandview right turn bay
- Hitt Road/Iona Road roundabout
- Old Butte extension to 33rd South

SOURCE: Appendix C, page 66, *2025 Long Range Transportation Plan*, June, 2005, BMPO

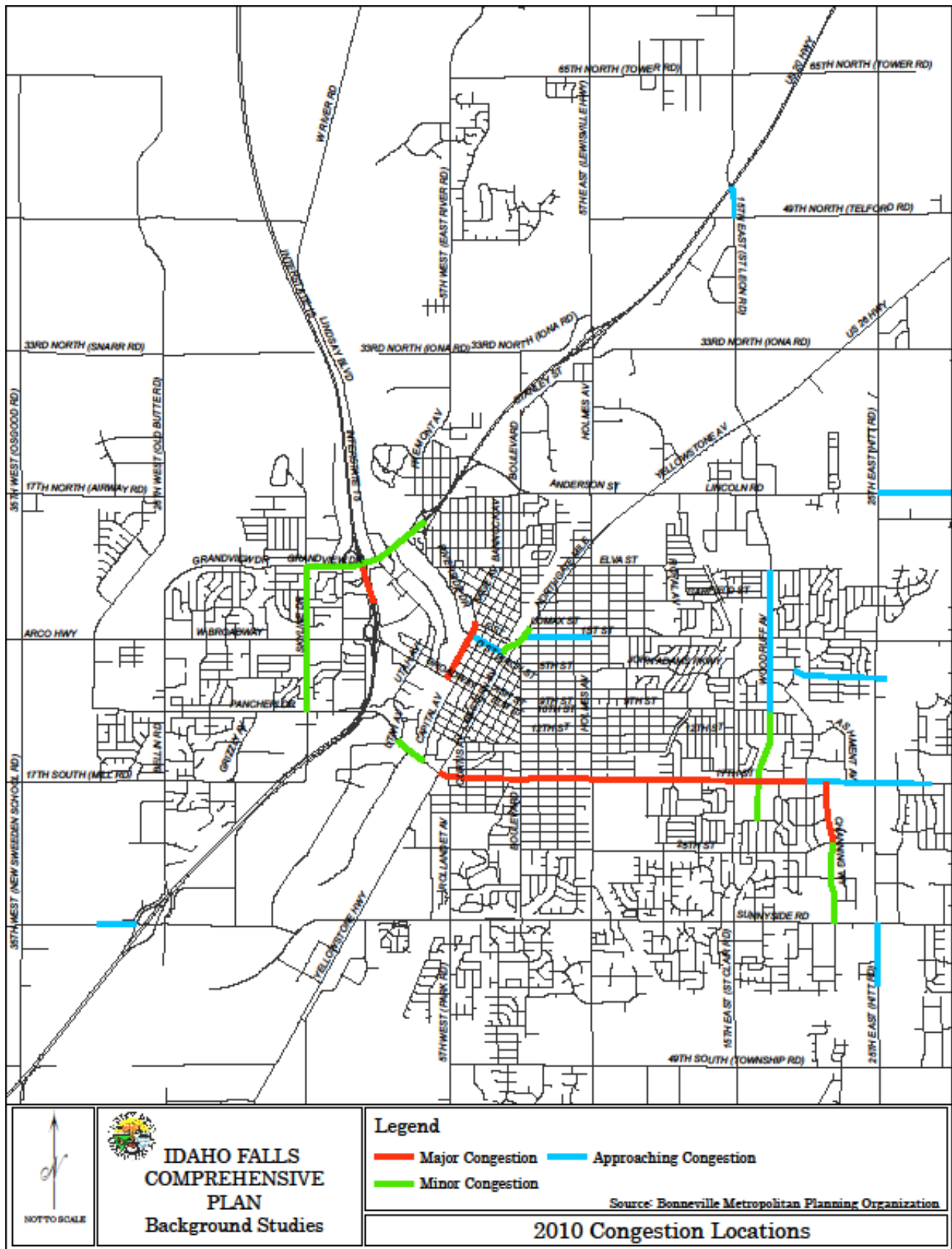
Map 12 shows the transportation projects identified by the BMPO in the *2025 Long Range Transportation Plan*

As part of the *2035 Long Range Transportation Plan* currently being developed, the BMPO has expanded

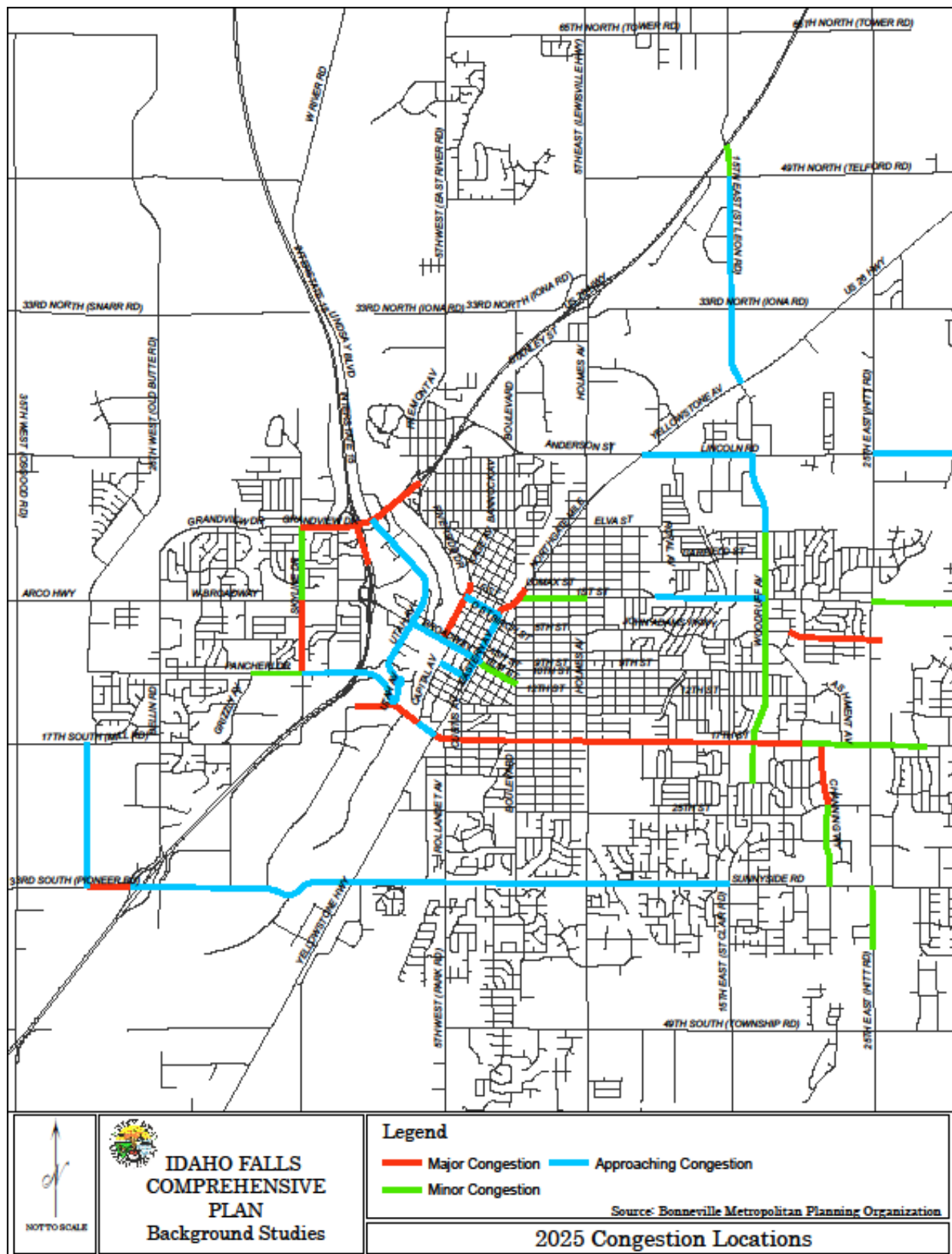
the number of functional classifications. The plan is based on ideas from city and county engineers, planners, and other members of the BMPO's Technical Advisory Committee. Map 13 shows the 2035 BMPA Master Roadway Plan. In addition to the classifications currently listed in the City's Comprehensive Plan, the BMPO plan includes principal and minor rural collectors. The City may consider adopting this map or portions of it for the Comprehensive Plan so the two plans will coordinate with each other.



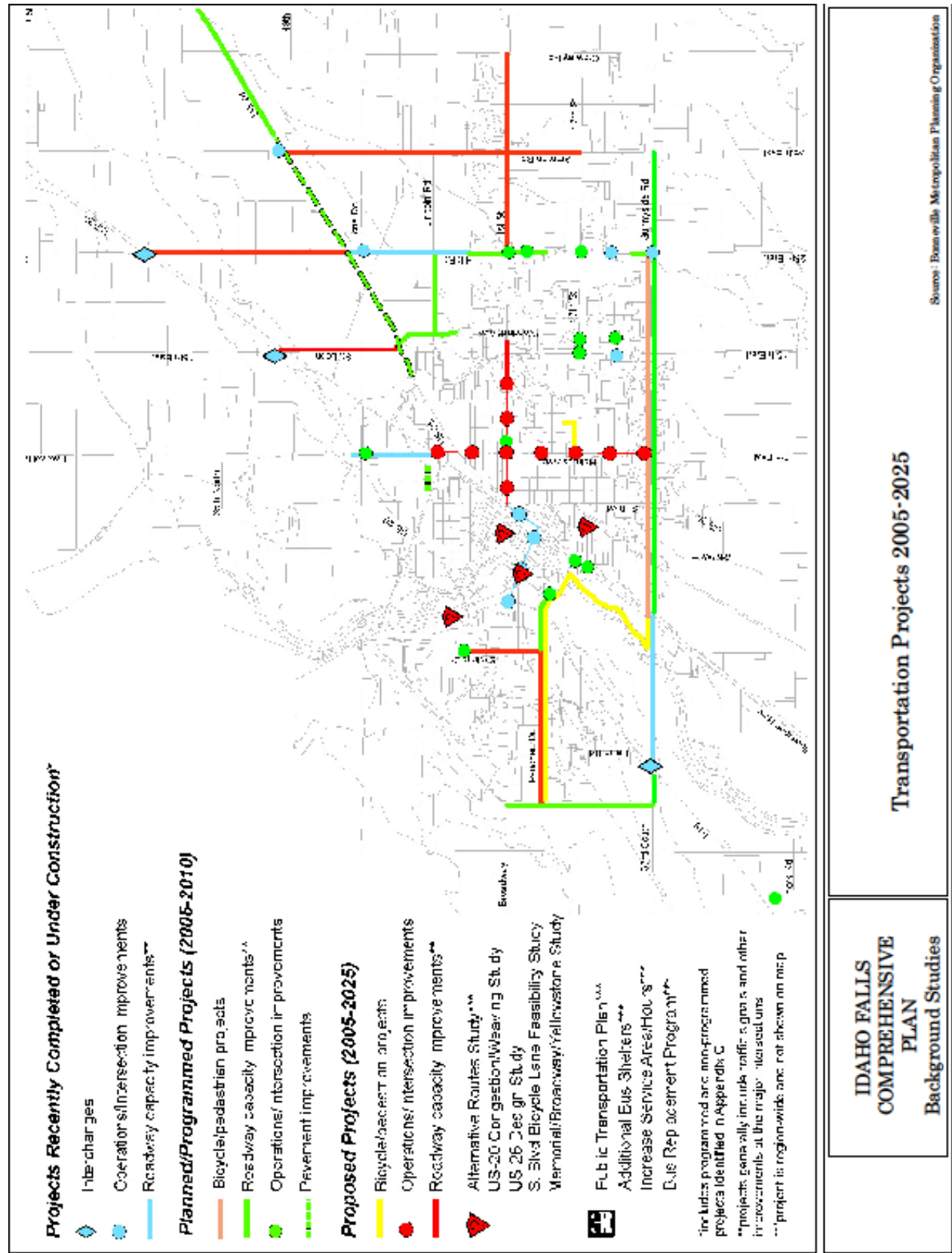
Map 9



Map 10



Map 11



Map 12

Air Transportation

Background

In 1929-30, the City of Idaho Falls acquired about 200 acres of land to build the Idaho Falls Regional Airport (originally called Fanning Field). The original hangars and terminal buildings were of log construction, located on the east side of the field. Today, the airport is a modern facility with a 9,001-foot main runway, 870 acres of land, and provides air service to a primary market area of approximately 250,000.

The FAA identifies the Idaho Falls Regional Airport as a non-hub commercial service airport in the national airport system. The Boeing 737-300 aircraft, with a gross weight of 170,000 pounds, has been identified as the critical aircraft for pavement design and for much of the airfield dimensional criteria. Map 14 shows the existing layout of the airport.

Current Use and Capacity

The capacity of an airport is measured in its ability to accommodate aircraft, passengers, and cargo. According to FAA guidelines, the capacity of the airfield is 225,000 aircraft operations per year. In 2008 there were a total of 44,092 aircraft operations, a one percent decrease from 1995. The terminal building and its various functions such as ticketing, baggage claim, and car rentals are designed for a capacity of 350 peak hour passengers. Current peak hour use is an average of 250 passengers.

Forecasted Demand

According to the master plan for the airport, all operations have adequate capacity to meet projected demands through the year 2017. In regards to land, future growth of the City near the airport should not present a problem to its operation. The airport has acquired or plans to acquire any land not in its possession that is subject to noise or other nuisances. Map 15 shows noise contours produced by airport activity. The threshold for noise nuisances is 65 dB.

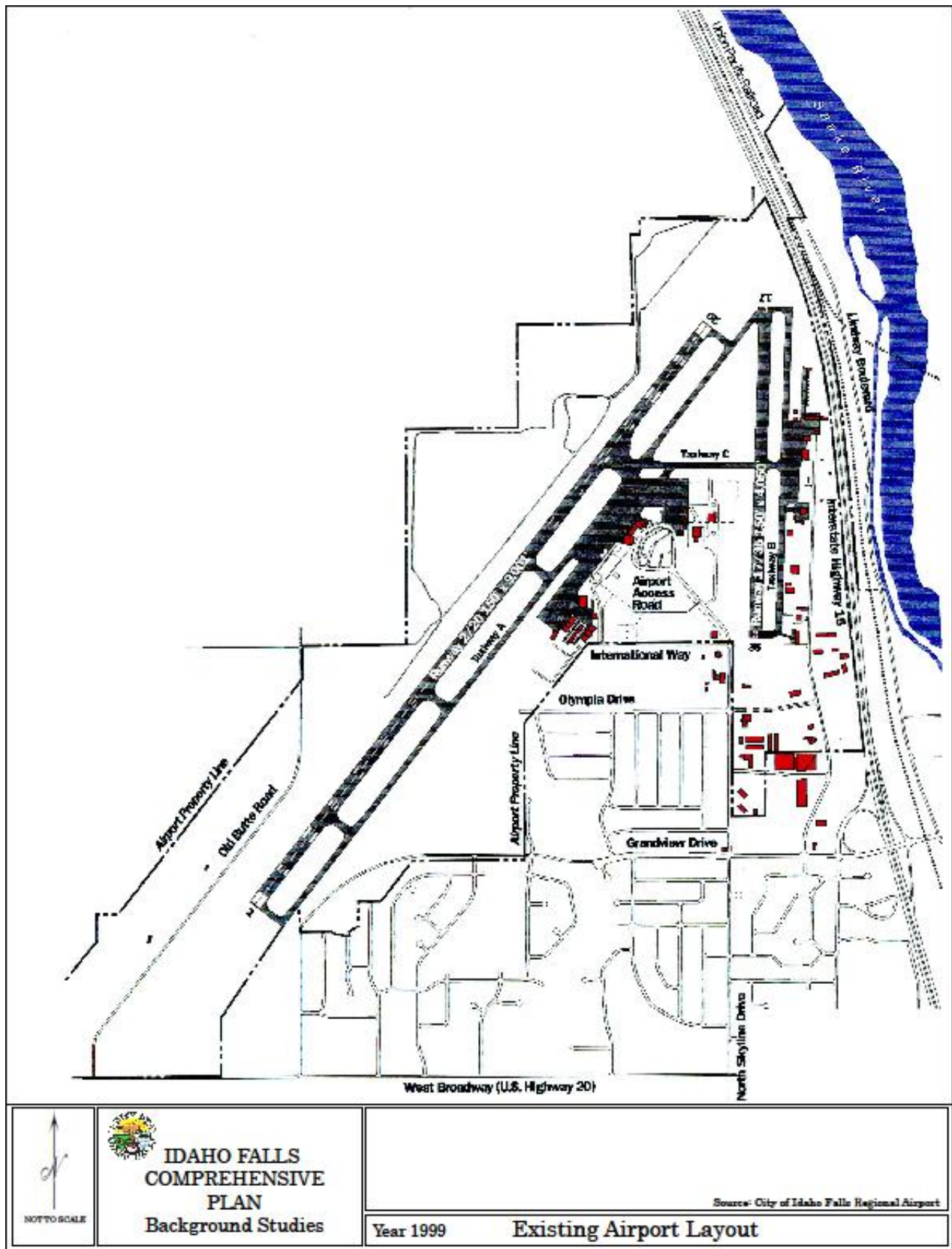
The Idaho Falls Regional Airport would like its voice heard regarding development within four miles of its borders. Its updated master plan includes a model zoning ordinance to address development concerns within the areas shown on Map 16. Areas in red on this map prohibit development other than airport needs. Areas in yellow and peach are areas of concern for the airport because of approach zones and noise levels. In these areas the model ordinance limits building height and permitted land uses to those which are compatible with the elevated noise levels. For example, commercial uses such as retail trade and manufacturing could be allowed with conditions that lighting on buildings and parking lots is limited and directed downward. Residential development is discouraged in the “Limited Development” areas but allowed with low densities, navigation easements, and proper location of structures.

Future Needs

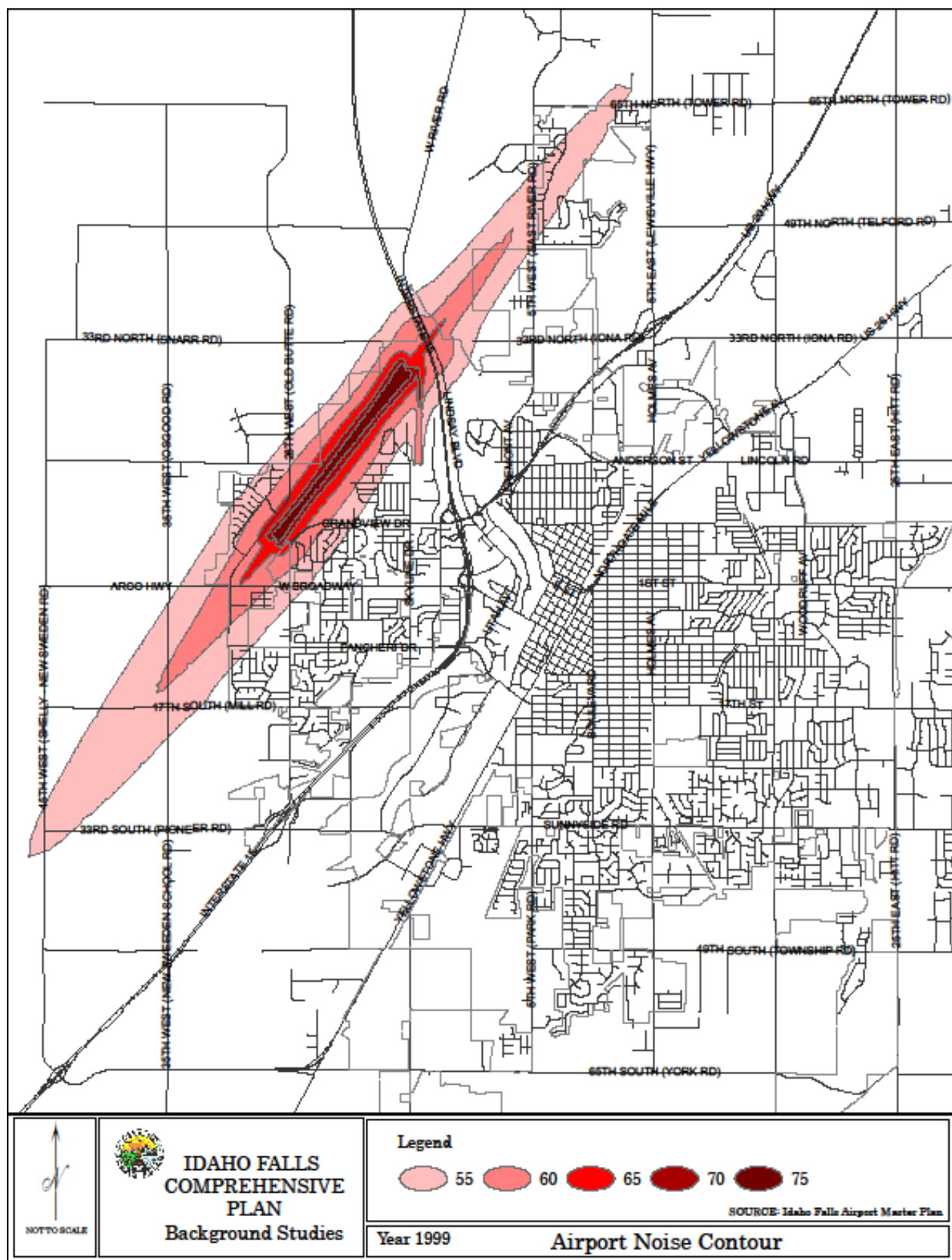
As mentioned above, the airport has adequate capacity to meet its projected demands through at least 2017. In order to improve operations, however, the following are possible improvements to the existing facility:

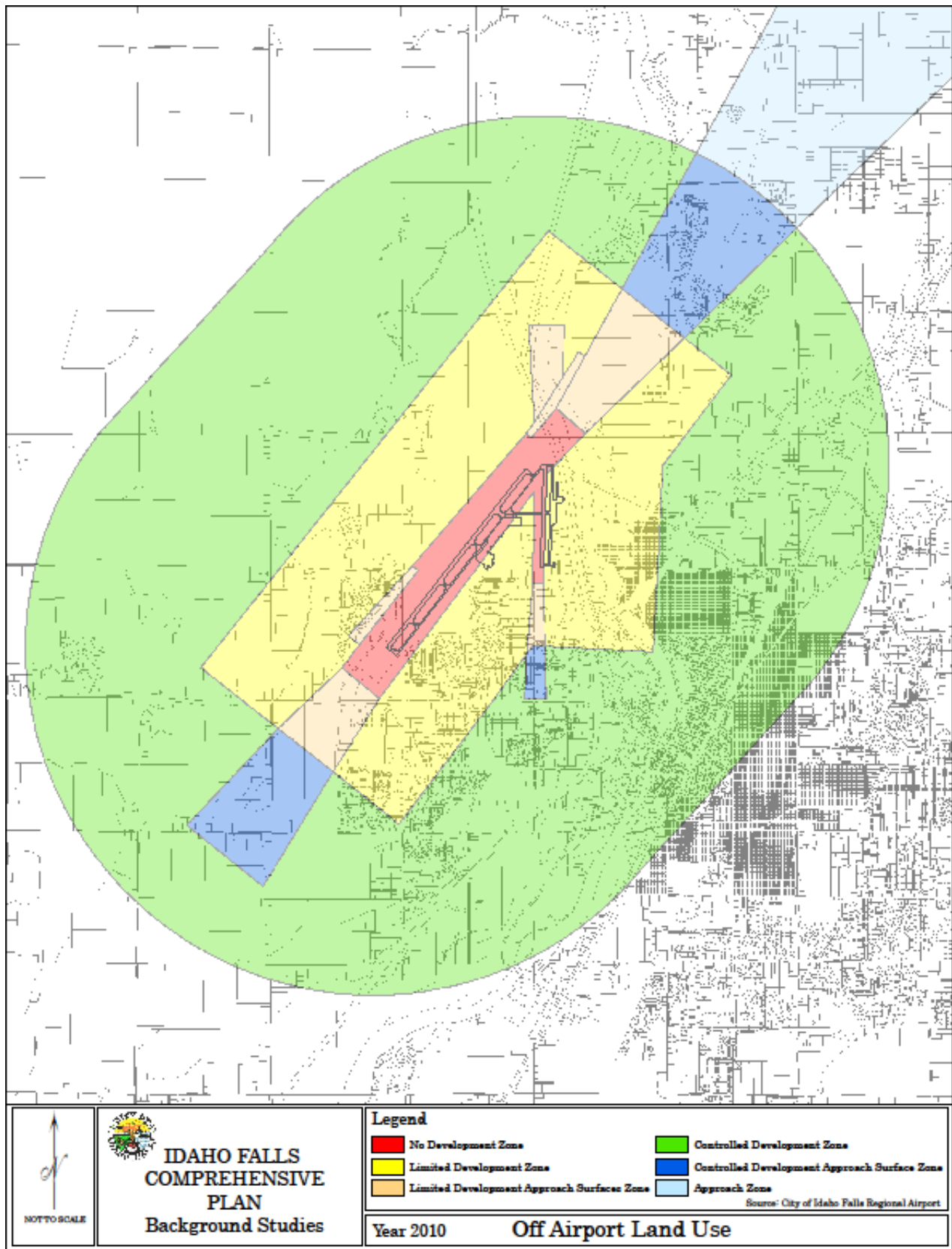
- Expansions of ticket counter space and baggage claim space
- Development of existing land to accommodate hangar growth and air cargo facilities
- Short parallel runway for helicopter traffic and general aviation
- Expansion of terminal ramp space for commercial aircraft

As part of this plan, the airport is proposing to close runway 17/35 and developing more space for hangars. They will also construct a new runway immediately west of runway 2/20. This runway, like 17/35, will be a shorter, lower capacity runway.



Map 14





Map 16

Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation

Background

Although the predominant mode of travel is the automobile, there is also a need for safe transportation networks for bicycle and pedestrian transportation. The Bonneville Metropolitan Planning Organization publishes the *BMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* which addresses concerns and inadequacies in the current bicycle and pedestrian network in order to accommodate the needs of those currently cycling and walking as well as increase the number of citizens using these forms of transportation.

Classification

One of the challenges of planning for cyclists and pedestrians is the different needs and facilities for different users. These range from people who bike or walk to work and need direct routes to key locations and those who cycle, walk, or jog primarily for recreation and look for trails and pathways separated from busy streets. From an expenditure standpoint, creating bike lanes as opposed to pathways is much more affordable. However, bike lanes alone do not meet the needs of all cyclists and do little for pedestrians. BMPO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (bike/ped plan) identifies three classifications of cyclists:

Group A (Advanced Bicyclists)—Experienced riders who are confident in operating under most traffic conditions.

Group B (Basic Bicyclists)—Basically adults and teenagers who are less comfortable yet capable of operating well within high traffic volume situations; casual type riders.

Group C (Children)—Pre-teen riders with short trips and low speeds. Initially monitored by parents.

Facilities

Facilities for pedestrian traffic are primarily sidewalks and multi-use paths such as the Snake River Greenbelt. Bicycle facilities include multi-use paths, striped bike-lanes, and bike routes which are roadway lanes wide enough to accommodate both automobiles and bicycles. There are currently 18.9 miles of pathways and 4.2 miles of bike lanes in Idaho Falls. Table 6 lists existing paths and lanes in Idaho Falls. It also includes proposed facilities and their estimated costs. These as well as proposed facilities are shown in Map 17. Proposed facilities will be further discussed in the next section.

5-Year Priorities

Because the list of proposed projects in Table 6 is both extensive and costly, the BMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee helps develop a 5-year project priority list as part of the bicycle and pedestrian plan. The list identifies projects that are both important and have an identified or potential funding source. The list is updated annually. The priority list below is for facilities only and does not include recommendations regarding education and community outreach programs.

Recommended Five Year Project Priority List

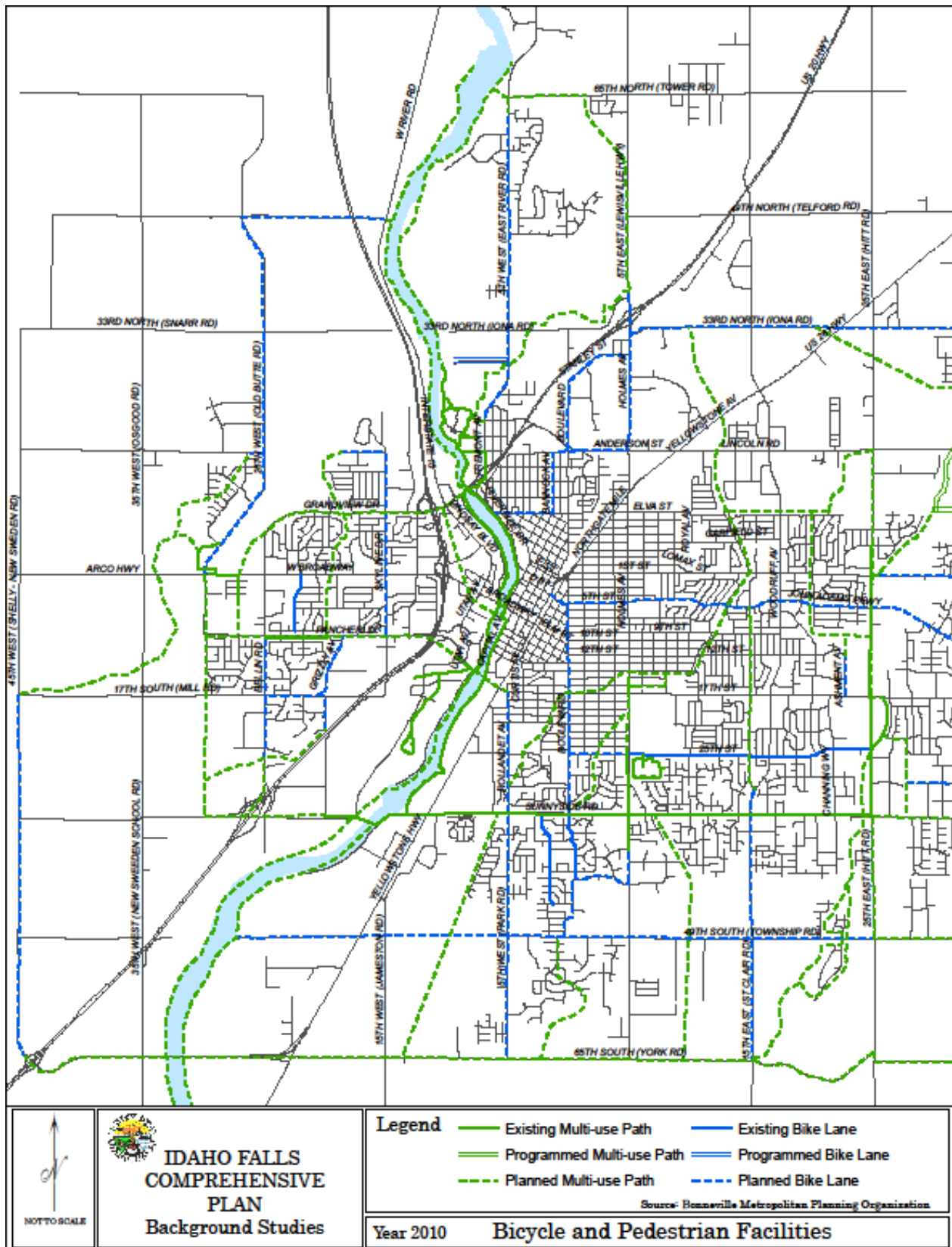
- Increased bicycle facilities at locations to be determined
- Extension of Greenbelt
- Pedestrian Bridge at June Avenue and 16th Street
- Reconfigure South Boulevard and provide bike lanes
- Pedestrian Bridge and Bike Lanes at 25th Street and Gustafson Canal
- Pedestrian Bridge from Meadows subdivision to Kinswood subdivision

**Table 6
Existing Pathways and Bike Lanes**

Facility Length (Miles)							
Location	Existing Pathway	Proposed Pathway	Existing Lane	Proposed Lane	Total	Path Estimated Cost	Lane Estimated Cost
16 th St./June Avenue	0.1	0.3			0.4	130,000	
25 th Street			2.0	0.5	2.5		3,000
Ashment	0.7	0.2		0.3	0.5	87,000	2,000
Bellin Road		0.6		1.0	1.6	260,000	7,000
Broadway/Tunnel and Path	0.7	0.4			1.1	173,000	
Butte Arm Canal (two segments)		5.1			5.1	2,200,000	
Castlerock				0.5	0.5		3,000
Community Park	0.9				0.9		
East Lateral Canal/International Way		1.7		0.4	2.1	736,000	3,000
Elva/Bannock/Anderson				1.6	1.6		11,000
Fremont Avenue				2.6	2.6		18,000
German Canal (vicinity)		1.3			1.3	563,000	
Greenbelt	4.5	30.1			34.6	13,000,000	
Gustafson Canal		1.0			1.0	433,000	
Hitt Road	1.0	2.0			3.0	866,000	
Holmes Avenue	0.2	0.9		0.6	1.7	390,000	
Holmes/Tower Road		2.5		1.3	3.8	1,000,000	9,000
Idaho Canal		2.1			2.1	909,000	
John Adams Parkway				3.1	3.1		21,000
Meppen Canal		2.1			2.1	909,000	
Nathan			0.7		0.7		
North Boulevard				1.3	1.3		9,000
North Fork Willow Creek Canal		2.1			2.1	909,000	
Old Butte Road (two segments)		2.0		3.1	5.1	866,000	21,000
Pancheri Drive		2.6			2.6	1,100,000	
Porter Canal/I-15/Grizzly		1.1		0.3	1.4	476,000	
Eastern Idaho RR-Sunnyside North		3.6			3.6	1,600,000	
Rollandet/Park Road				3.0	3.0		20,000
Sand Creek/17 th Street	0.5	4.5			5.0	1,900,000	
Sand Creek/1 st Street		2.4			2.4	1,000,000	
Sidehill Canal (vicinity)		1.5			1.5	649,000	
Skyline Drive				1.5	1.5		10,000
South Boulevard/Stonebrook				3.0	3.0		20,000
South Capital	2.2				2.2		
South Holmes	0.7				0.7		
St. Clair/Idaho Canal		3.9			3.9	1,700,000	
St. Clair/Woodruff				2.2	2.2		15,000
Stonebrook			0.5		0.5		
Sunnyside Road	6.9	2.3			9.2	996,000	
Great Western Canal/West 17 th		3.4		0.1	3.5	1,400,000	1,000
Township Road				6.2	6.2		42,000
Troy			0.5		0.5		

Table 6 Existing Pathways and Bike Lanes Facility Length (Miles)							
Location	Existing Pathway	Proposed Pathway	Existing Lane	Proposed Lane	Total	Path Estimated Cost	Lane Estimated Cost
Eastern Idaho RR-US 20		1.0			1.0	433,000	
University Boulevard			0.5		0.5		
US 20/Fremont/Higham	0.5	0.2			0.7	87,000	
US 20/Grandview/Thomas		2.7			2.7	1,200,000	
Utah Avenue (vicinity)		0.5			0.5	216,000	
West 17 th South/Grizzly				1.0	1.0		7,000
West 49 th North		0.1		1.1	1.2	43,000	7,000
York Road		8.2			8.2	3,500,000	
Total Length/Estimated Cost	18.9	92.4	4.2	34.7	149.5	39,731,000	229,000

SOURCE: *BMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan*



Map 17

Water

Background

The Idaho Falls Water Department provides water service within the corporate limits of the City of Idaho Falls. Only in rare circumstances does the department extend service beyond the corporate boundary. Water service in Idaho Falls consists of water supply, storage, and distribution.

Water Supply

The source of the Idaho Falls water supply is the East Snake River Plain aquifer. The water department operates 19 wells with total capacity of 88.6 million gallons per day (MGD) or 61,527 gallons per minute (GPM). The capacity of a well is measured based on its ability to pump water. The system capacity is measured by the ability to pump water into use. Wells fill storage tanks during non-peak hours allowing pumps to put more water into the system during peak hours than the wells alone. Total system capacity is 91.8 MGD or 63,750 GPM.

Water Storage

The water system has a true storage capacity of about 3.5 million gallons. Well No. 3 has an elevated tank with a 500,000-gallon capacity. The elevated tank uses gravity to provide a basis for pressure control. Pumps provide the remaining pressure control (as required) to match system demand.

Water Distribution

Water is distributed to about 24,500 customers. There are approximately 306.13 miles of water mains; a 33.5% increase from 1997². While most of the increase is due to growth in the City, a small portion may be due to differences in measurement tools. Map 18 (pg. 47) shows locations of wells, storage tanks, and water mains throughout the City. Map 19 shows an approximate 1-mile service radius of each well. Although this map is not a completely accurate portrayal of the water system and does not account for pumps pressurizing the system, it does suggest general areas of the City where wells may be needed in the future; a useful tool in terms of land use. Table 7 shows the number of miles of water mains by pipe size.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) advises communities to replace any water main smaller than six inches in diameter to provide adequate fire flow. Currently 12.5% of the system is smaller than six inches. The City replaces these lines with larger mains as they wear out.

Table 7 Water Mains	
Water Mains (inches)	Length (miles)
24	0.6
20	0.57
18	1.31
16	9.1
14	0.41
12	54.99
10	6.66
8	80.76
6	116.60
4	33.41
2	4.13
Total	308.54

SOURCE: GIS data

Water Usage

Monitoring water usage helps the City plan to ensure the water system's capacity keeps pace with growth. Besides measuring total consumption, the Water Department monitors average daily usage, maximum daily usage, minimum daily usage, and peak hour usage. The purpose of measuring peak hour usage is to see if the system has adequate capacity to meet demands if the peak hour usage continued for 24 hours. By calculating the gallons of water that would be produced if the peak hour usage continued for 24 hours, and by measuring system capacity by assuming the City's largest well was not available, the Water Department can determine if it is in compliance with DEQ guidelines. For example, 2009 peak hour

² SOURCE: Capital Facilities Plan 1997-2002 City of Idaho Falls, Kask Consulting Inc, July 7, 1997

usage was 58,333 gallons per minute, equivalent to 84 MGD. The City's largest well can produce approximately 8.1 MGD. If this well was unavailable, the system could still produce 83.7 MGD. Table 8 compares water usage from 1995 to present. These figures show although the system capacity is adequate for current needs, it has increased at a rate slower than consumption. The water department will also be increasing capacity by 5,000 GPM (7.2 MGD) with a new tank and pump station on 65th South, which will be available in 2011.

Table 8 Water Usage 1995-2008							
Year	Population	Total Consumption	Avg. Daily Consumption	Max. Daily Usage	Min. Daily Usage	Max. Hourly Usage	System Capacity
1995	49,182	6.9 billion gallons	19 MGD	49.2 MGD	8 MGD	49,000 GPM	82 MGD
2008	57,388	9 billion gallons	24.8 MGD	60.7 MGD	11 MGD	53,166 GPM	91.8 MGD
Percent Change	16.6%	30.4%	30.5%	23.3%	37.5%	8.5%	11.9%

SOURCES: 1997 Capital Facilities Plan, Intermountain Demographics

Table 9 shows water consumption per connection and water consumption per capita. It should be noted that the number of connections includes both residential and most commercial users.

Table 9 Water Consumption 1995-2008		
Year	Daily Consumption per Connection	Daily Consumption per Capita
1995	986 GPD	365 GPD
2008	1006 GPD	379 GPD
Percent Change	2%	3.8%

Fire Flow

Fire flow is the rate of flow needed for fire fighters to confine a major fire at specific buildings or building complexes. The determination of this flow depends upon the size, construction, occupancy, exposure, and communication of buildings within and surrounding the group complex.

Various fire insurance companies serving the City of Idaho Falls set fire insurance rates on the basis of a classification made by the Idaho Surveying and Rating Bureau. The Bureau has given Idaho Falls a rating of 3. A rating of 3 is excellent on the scale of 1 to 10, with 10 representing less than the minimum protection.

Forecasted Demand

Water Consumption

Assuming a 1.8% growth rate, water consumption is expected to increase to 11.72 billion gallons per year or 32.1 MGD by 2025 as shown in Table 10. If peak hour flow continues at a 0.6% per year increase as it did between 1995 and 2008, peak hour usage in 2025 will be approximately 58,600 GPM or 84.4 MGD. The system must increase its total capacity in order to meet these demands.

Table 10 Forecasted Water Consumption				
	2008	2015	2020	2025
Population	57,388	65,172	72,868	80,890
Connections	24,500	27,177	29,713	32,485
Consumption	9 billion gallons	10.2 billion gallons	11 billion gallons	11.72 billion gallons
Peak Hour	53,166 GPM	55,398 GPM	56,993 GPM	58,600 GPM

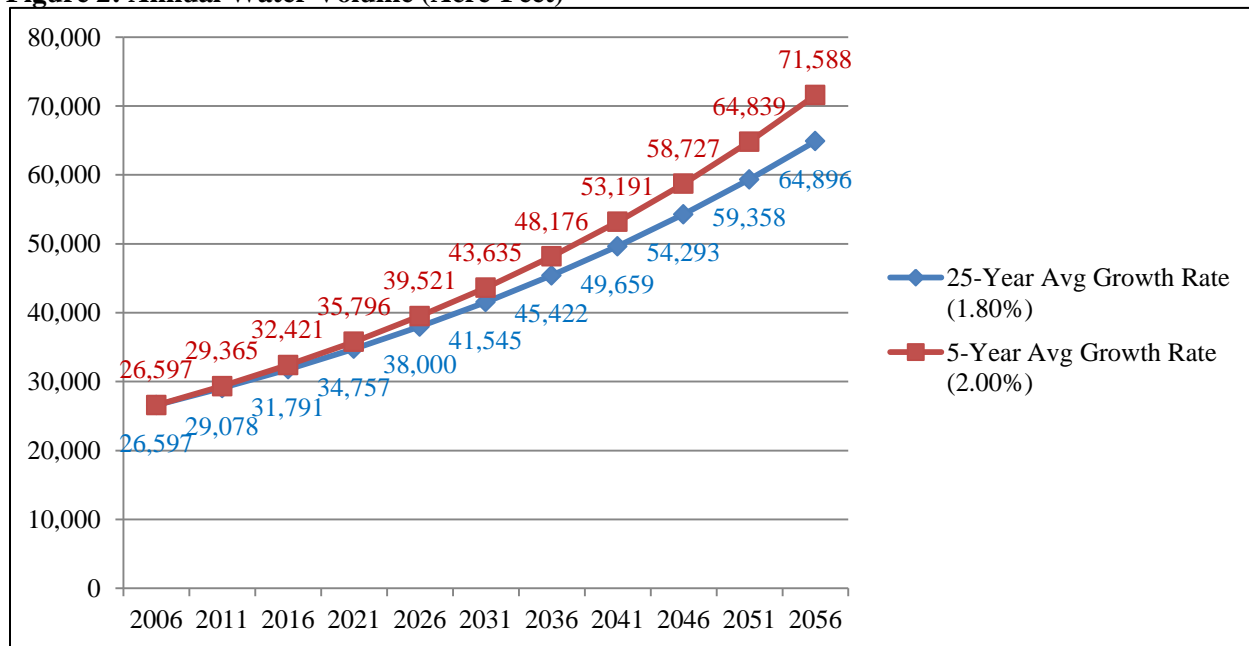
SOURCE: Intermountain Demographics, Water Department consumption statistics

Water Rights

A challenge to growth for many communities is the acquisition of water rights. The City of Idaho Falls currently owns the rights to approximately 75,000 acre-feet of water per year. At current growth rates, this amount of water is adequate for the next 50 years and beyond. However, to fully utilize this water will require installation of more ground-level storage with pump stations or going able to add points of diversion to existing rights which may be contested. Figure 2 shows projected growth in number of connections and water volume usage in acre-feet.

Although the City has an adequate water supply, obtaining new well permits can be challenging. In order to maintain adequate system capacity, the water department may construct additional large storage tanks that can be filled during low use hours. The water can then be pumped into the system during peak usage.

Figure 2: Annual Water Volume (Acre-Feet)



SOURCE: Water System Growth Study, 25-year and 50-year Projections

Operation and Maintenance

In 1995 the water department operated with 15 employees and a budget of \$3,119,133. In 2008 the employees increased to 16 and the budget to \$6,181,992.

Table 11 Water Department Budget and Employment 1995-2008					
Years	Estimated Population	Percentage Increase	Water Department Employees	Water Department Budget	Amount Required For Same Buying Power in 1995
1995	49,182		15	\$3.1 Million	
2008	57,388	14%	16	\$6.2 Million	\$4.3 Million
SOURCE: Capital Facilities Plan 1997-2002 City of Idaho Falls, Kask Counseling inc., July 7, 1997					

Financing

Water system costs are paid by rates levied to system users and by system development costs levied to new customers coming into the system. In addition, the City collects front footage fees to new users who wish to connect to an existing water main. The current fee is \$35 per linear foot of property adjacent to a public street or right-of-way. In cases where the water line was constructed at the expense of an individual, the City may, with a written agreement, collect the fees and reimburse the individual. The current rates are shown in Table 12 and the new customer connection fees in Table 13. Table 12 is limited to common uses and is not a complete list of rates.

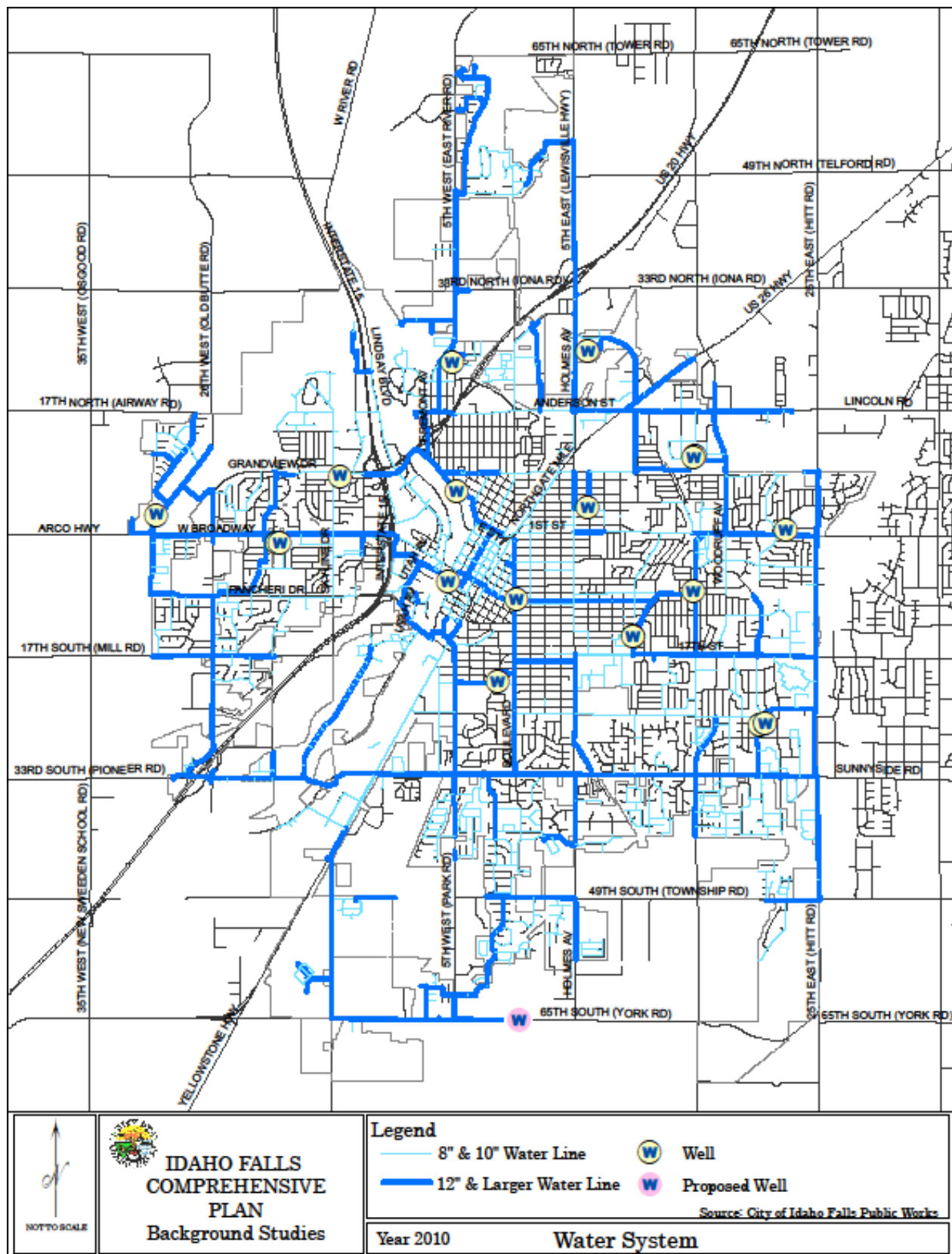
Table 12 Non-Metered Water Rates	
Customer Classification	Monthly Rate
Single-family dwelling	\$21.00
Apartment unit (per unit)	\$15.78
Office buildings, banks, bowling alleys, lodges, markets per 1,000 square feet of area	\$6.29
Restaurant and fast-food establishment	\$55.80
All other non-metered customers-per premises or building	\$21.00

Table 13 New Water Customer Connection Fees	
Pipe Size (Inches)	Connection Fee
1.0	\$1,312.00
1.5	\$2,624.00
2.0	\$5,248.00
4.0	\$20,992.00
6.0	\$47,232.00
8.0	\$82,656.00

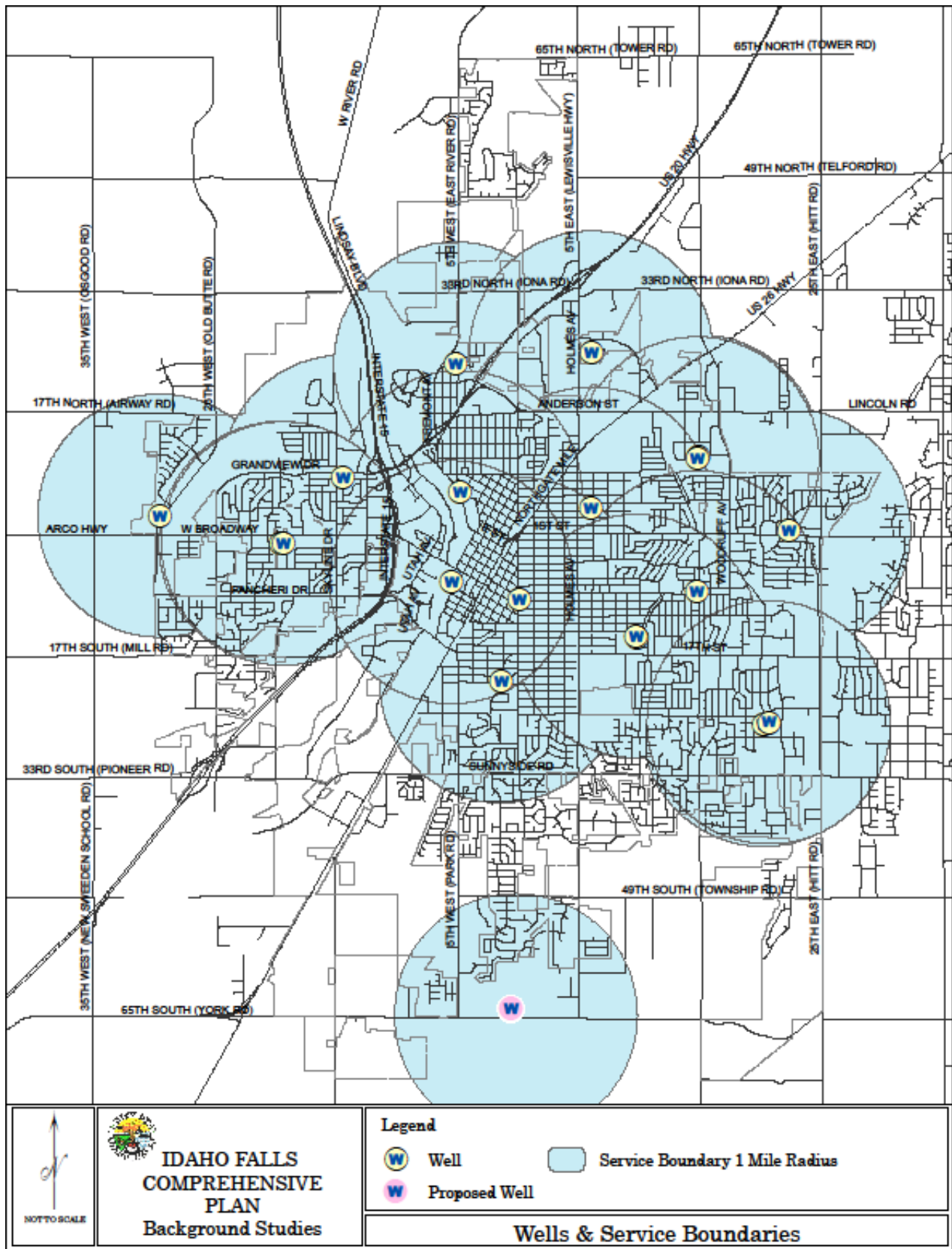
Capital Improvements

Each year the water department budgets water main and well rehabilitation in order to keep the system functioning properly. In addition, Table 14 lists major projects planned for the next five years. A full list of improvements and projects may be found in the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

Table 14 Water Department Projects		
Water Projects	Estimated Cost	Fiscal Year
65th South Water Storage Tank	\$1,000,000	2009
65th South Booster Pump Station	\$1,250,000	2010
Pancheri Dr. Water Line from Utah to Saturn	\$500,000	2012
Well No. 18	\$4,600,000	Preliminary Development



Map 18



Map 19

SEWER

Background

Wastewater management in the Idaho Falls area consists of collection, conveyance, treatment, and disposal. The Idaho Falls Wastewater Department extends conveyance, treatment, and disposal services to users beyond the corporate boundary of the City of Idaho Falls. Specifically, the area coverage extends and includes the following: Cities of Ammon and Ucon, the Iona-Bonneville Sewer District, and miscellaneous trailer courts and local improvement districts in Bonneville County. Wastewater management also includes storm water collection.

Collection System

The collection system consists of sewer pipes connecting homes and businesses to the trunk and interceptor system. The cost of installing the collection system is the responsibility of the builder and/or developer and is a condition of receiving a building permit. After its construction to City standards, the City assumes the maintenance and operation of the collection system. The City does not operate or maintain that portion from the building to the sewer main in the street, alley, or easement referred to as the service line. Idaho Falls also maintains the collection system for the cities of Ammon and Ucon and the Iona-Bonneville Sewer District. The number of sewer connections is shown in Table 15.

Table 15 Sewer Connections 2010	
Type	No. of Sewer Connections
Unmetered Customers	23,208
Metered Commercial	204
Penford Products	1
BARI/Integrow Malt	2
Total	23,415
SOURCE: CH2MHill, "City of Idaho Falls, Sewer Utility Rate Study"	

Conveyance – Trunk and Interceptor System

The trunk and interceptor system, including lift stations, is shown in Map 20 (pg. 53). To convey the sewage to the treatment plant requires not only a system of piping but also a number of lift stations. There are currently 31 lift stations in Idaho Falls, 7 in the Iona-Bonneville Sewer District, 6 in Ammon, and 1 in Ucon.

Treatment Facility

The wastewater treatment facilities were designed to treat an average plant flow of 17 million gallons per day (mgd). Present loading averages 11.5 mgd. This loading will be reduced when the Eastern Idaho Regional Wastewater System begins to serve Ammon in 2011-2012.

Solids Disposal Facility

The existing solids handling system is currently loading a sludge flow of 80,000 gallons/day at 2 percent solids. A limited number of sludge drying beds and sludge lagoons are available for dewatering and storage during periods of the year when land application is not practical.

Usage

Wastewater flow from October 2005 through September 2006 was 4,318 million gallons or 11.8 million gallons per day. The wastewater flow by user group is shown in Table 16. Per capita flow rates are shown in Table 17.

Table 16 Wastewater Flow FY 2006		
User Flow Group	Yearly Flow (Million Gallons)	Avg. Daily Flow (Million Gallons)
Unmetered Customers	2,281.18	6.2
Metered Commercial	336.918	0.92
Ammon/IBSD	759.137	2.1
City of Ucon	41.445	0.11
Penford Products	51.433	0.14
BARI/Grupo Modelo	848.206	2.3
Total	4,318.357	11.8

SOURCE: CH2MHill, "City of Idaho Falls, Sewer Utility Rate Study"

Table 17 Per Capita and Per Household Flow Rates FY 2006		
Location	Flow (Gallons/Person/Day)	Flow (Gallons/Household/Day)
Unmetered Customers	110.7	272.6

SOURCE: CH2MHill, "City of Idaho Falls, Sewer Utility Rate Study"

Forecasted Demand

The population in the City of Idaho Falls is forecasted to increase from 54,235 in 2005 to 80,890 in 2025. The increased population will in turn generate additional wastewater flows. Table 18 shows projected wastewater flows assuming current per capita flow rates remain constant.

Table 18 Forecasted Wastewater Flows (Million Gallons)				
User Group Flow	FY2006 Flow		FY2025 Flow	
	Per Year	Per Day	Per Year	Per Day
Unmetered Customers	2,281	6.2	2,876	7.88
Metered Commercial	336.918	0.92	464.121	1.27
Ammon/IBSD	759.137	2.1	1,236	3.39
City of Ucon	41.445	0.11	45.55	0.12
Penford Products	51.433	0.14	51.433	0.14
BARI/Grupo Modelo	848.206	2.3	848.206	2.3
Total	4,318.357	11.8	5,519.478	15.12

SOURCE: CH2MHill, "City of Idaho Falls, Sewer Utility Rate Study"

Treatment Facility

As shown in Table 18, the treatment facility has adequate capacity to handle the 11.8 million gallons per day load in 2008 and the forecasted 15.12 million gallons per day load in 2025 even without accounting for the effects of Eastern Idaho Regional Wastewater Authority taking effluent from Ammon.

Trunk and Interceptor System

The trunk and interceptor system's capacity to handle future forecasted loads are more difficult to estimate. The trunk and interceptor system improvements are sized to meet forecasted population growth.

As growth continues south of York Road, increased numbers of lift stations will be required to pump effluent north to interceptor lines. A trunk line will also be needed in York Road.

Storm Water

The treatment plant also processes water from the City's storm water collection system. Although new development is required to provide on-site storm water collection, the City still maintains the storm sewer system for older parts of the City. Map 21 shows locations of storm ponds and storm water collection lines throughout the City.

Needed Improvements

In 2009 a study was conducted to identify and prioritize needed improvements to the treatment facility. The study concluded nearly \$60,000,000 may be needed over the next 20 years to upgrade the existing facilities. High priority projects are listed below in Table 19:

Table 19 Sewer Department Projects		
Project	Estimated Cost	Recommended Completion Year
Gravity Belt Thickener	\$2,270,000	NA
Secondary Treatment Upgrade (Addresses ammonia and discharge issues)	\$18,150,000	NA
Primary Clarifier Project	\$7,880,000	2012
Dewatering Project	\$6,330,000	2014

Financing

Wastewater management costs are paid by rates levied to system users and by connection fees and front footage fees to new users coming into the system. The current rates are shown in Table 20. The current connection fee levied to a newcomer to the system is \$1,023 per connection for most uses, \$1,023 plus \$342 per living unit in multi-family dwellings, and \$1,023 plus \$34.20 per plumbing fixture for commercial buildings.

Table 20 2008 Sewer Rates				
Customer Class	Flat Fee	Flow (\$/1000gal)	BOD (\$/lbs)	TSS (\$/lbs)
Unmetered Customers (\$/ERU)	\$18.95	---	---	---
Metered Commercial	\$2.89	\$1.83		
City of Ammon/IBSD		\$1.79		
City of Ucon		\$1.36		
Penford Products		\$0.5318	\$0.4642	\$0.3123
BARI/Grupo Modelo		\$0.3744	\$0.4642	\$0.3123

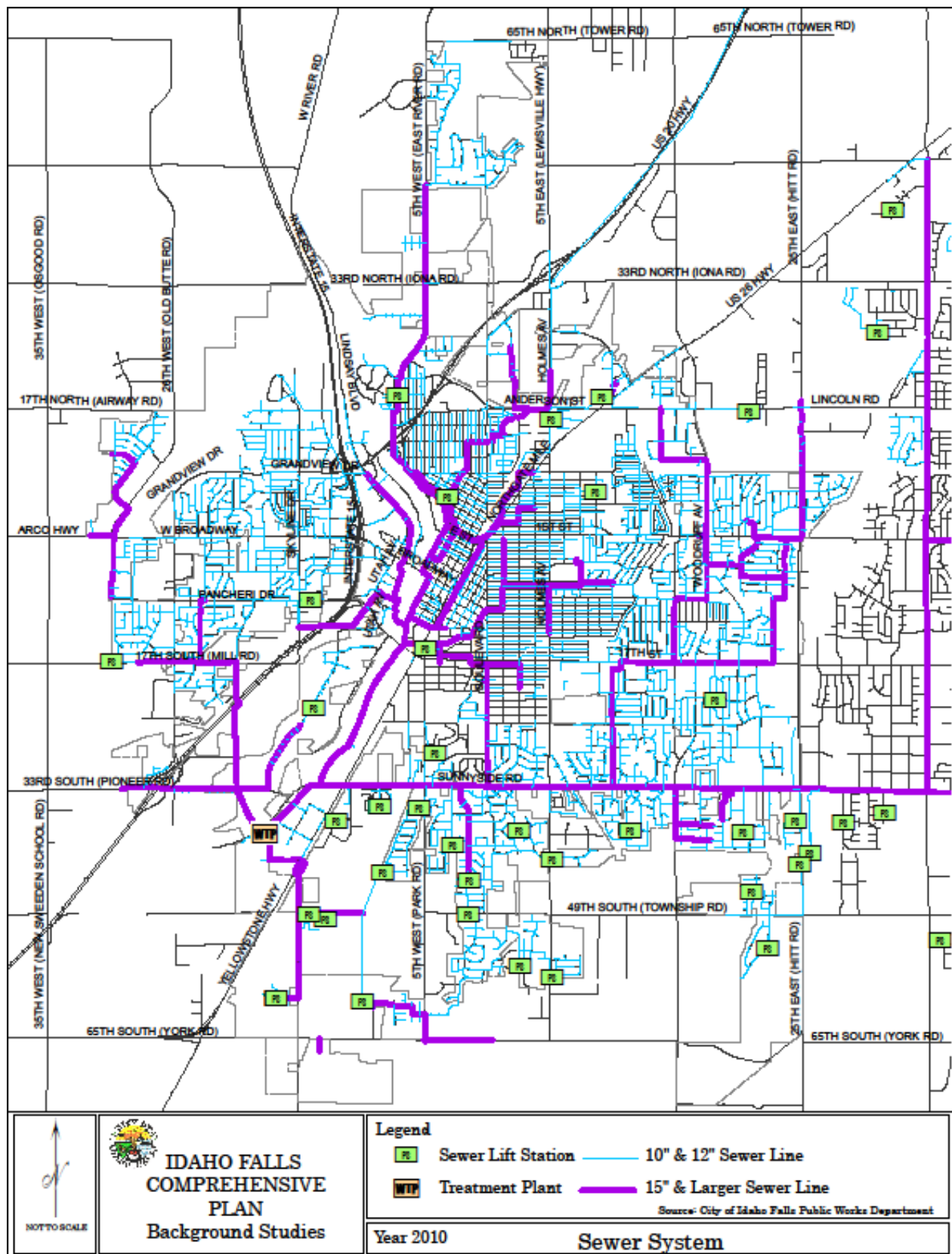
Rate Increases

In order to meet the financial needs of the system based on the cost of services provided to system users, rates are recommended to increase by 11% in 2010 and 3% in 2012.

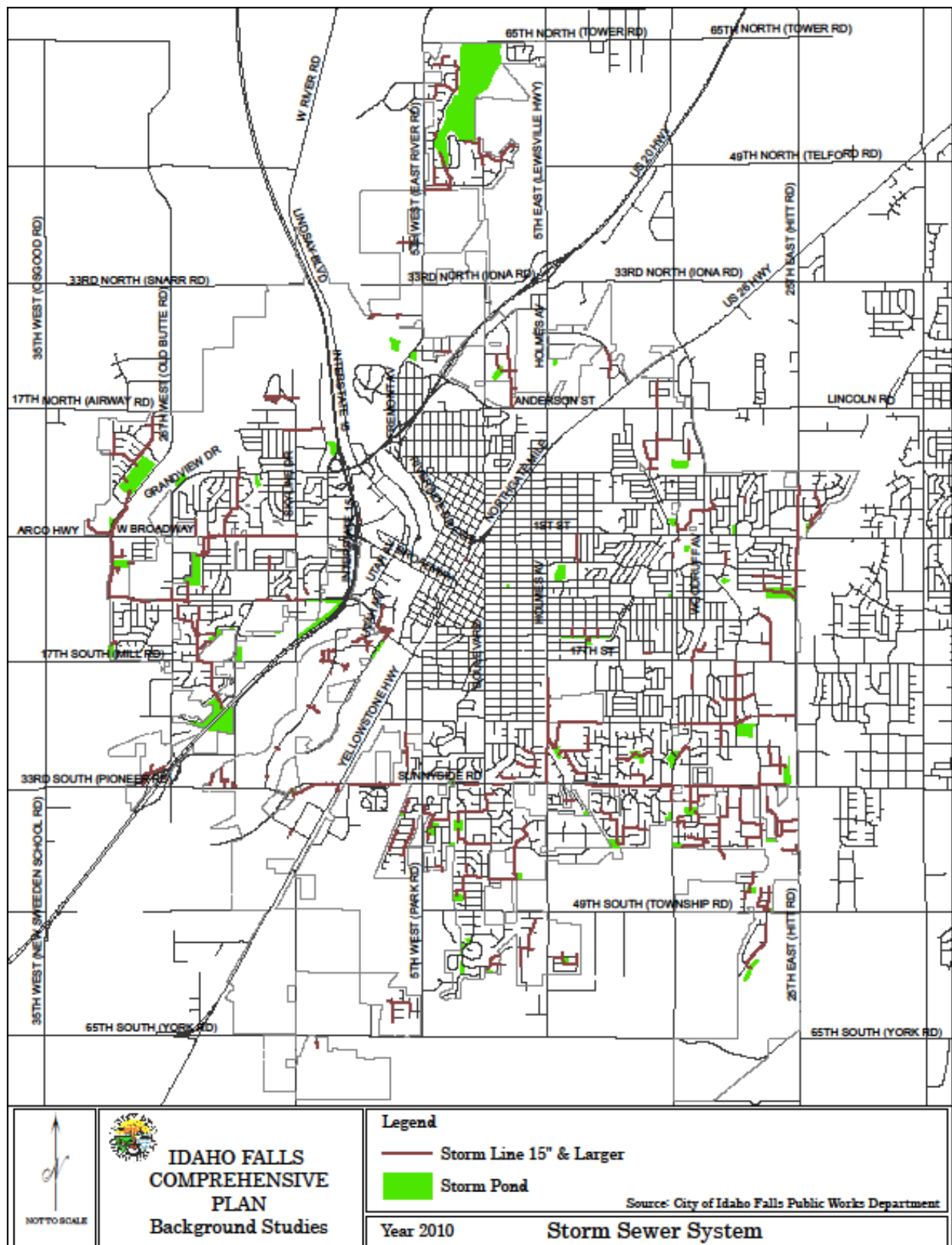
Budget

Table 21 outlines a comparison between Fiscal Year 1997 and the Fiscal Year 2007 Sewer Department budgets. Dollar amounts are adjusted for inflation. Total expenditures increased approximately 44.1% over the 10-year period.

Table 21 Sewer Department Budget Adjusted for Inflation			
Department	FY 1997 Budget	FY 2007 Budget	Percent Change
Sewer Administration	\$743,076	\$906,241	21.9%
Collection System O&M	\$118,104	\$262,177	121.9%
Preventative Maintenance	\$173,309	\$63,387	-63.4%
Lift Station O&M	\$168,746	\$204,840	21.3%
Bldg & Grounds Maint.	\$9,301	\$254	-97.2%
New Construction	\$391,301	\$42,705	-89%
Customer Service	\$263,100	\$471,876	79.3%
Storm Drainage O&M	\$118,010	\$76,825	-34.8%
Treatment Plant O&M	\$2,652,039	\$4,673,960	76.2%
Billing and Collection	\$183,130	\$245,676	34.1%
Total	\$4,820,746	\$6,947,941	44.1%



Map 20



Map 21

IDAHO FALLS POWER

Background

The City of Idaho Falls has provided electrical energy services to the residents and businesses of the City since 1900. Currently, the electric utility service area is approximately 20 square miles in size and includes all land within the corporate limits of the City. The City provides services to approximately 22,200 residential customers and to 3,650 commercial and industrial customers

Generating Facilities

The City owns and operates four hydroelectric generating facilities, all of which are located on the Snake River. Three of the four generators are low-head bulb turbine facilities. In addition, the City owns and operates the “Gem State Project,” a facility south of the City which includes a dam, reservoir, spillway, powerhouse, dikes, and transmission lines. Based on average water years, the total production from the four facilities is 230,000 megawatt hours. The total capacity of all generating facilities is 50 Megawatts.

Distribution System

Electricity is delivered to residential and commercial customers through a transmission and distribution system owned and operated by the City. The system consists of 15 substations and approximately 450 miles of transmission and distribution lines. The two major transmission systems are the 161 kV transmission line and the 44 kV transmission loop. These systems include substations along their respective routes. The 161 kV line extends from the Sugar Mill substation on the north end of Hitt Road approximately 4.3 miles south to York Road, and then west and north to the Westside substation near the Sunnyside/I-15 interchange. The 44 kV loop also connects with these substations, but services the core of the City as well as extending north towards Fairway estates. The system is critical to ensuring each part of the City has adequate and reliable power. When loading capacity of one loop is exceeded during peak times of use, the second system is able to carry the additional load. The locations of the two transmission systems, substations, and significant distribution lines are shown in Map 22.

Current Consumption

Electrical energy consumption for the years 1990 through 2008 are shown in Table 22. Total energy consumption has increased 27% over the past 18 years; an average of 1.8% per year. The population of Idaho Falls grew an average of 1.3% per year over the same time period.

Table 22 Electrical Energy Consumption 1990-2008 ³					
Consumption kWh	1990	1995	2000	2005	2009
Residential	252,047	282,654	271,472	272,395	293,230
Commercial	208,589	234,597	253,820	255,913	257,200
Industrial	20,963	51,647	37,434	80,278	64,193
Other	37,209	38,957	43,850	42,509	73,561
Total	518,808	607,855	606,567	651,095	698,154

Current Energy Production

As mentioned above, Idaho Falls Power facilities currently produce approximately 230,000 megawatt hours annually. This represents 30 percent of annual consumption of all customers. The City must purchase additional electricity from several outside sources in order to provide sufficient power to

³ Changes in classification of customers may account for some differences in consumption totals.

existing users. 60-65% of outside purchases come from the Bonneville Power Administration. The remaining needs are purchased through a variety of market options.

Forecasted Demands

Growth Generated Demand

Population in the City is forecasted to increase at the rate of about 1.7 percent per year from 2008 to 2025. The growth in electric energy use for the same period is forecasted to be about 1.5-2.0 percent per year. The resulting annual electrical energy needs in 2025 amounts to about 967,278 megawatt hours.

Transmission and Distribution System

In 1973 a study was conducted by CH2MHill to evaluate what facilities were needed to accommodate power loads of 200 MW, which is expected to occur by 2020 -2025 at current growth rates. When the study was updated in 2007, the consulting firm recommended a third major transmission system, the north loop of the 161 kV transmission line, be constructed as soon as practicable. It will connect the Sugar Mill and Westside substations and be approximately 18 miles in length servicing the northern portion of the City. Map 23 shows locations for the preferred route and an alternative route for the line. Without this loop, further growth of the City will be challenging due to decreasing ability to supply reliable power to new growth areas and meet peak demands. Besides dealing with future growth, the 161kV line is also necessary to maintain reliable power to the central business district of the City. As mentioned above, this area is currently served by the 44kV line and is now at or near capacity. Construction of the 161kV line will absorb some of this load and continue to provide reliable power to the central business district now and in the future.

Substations

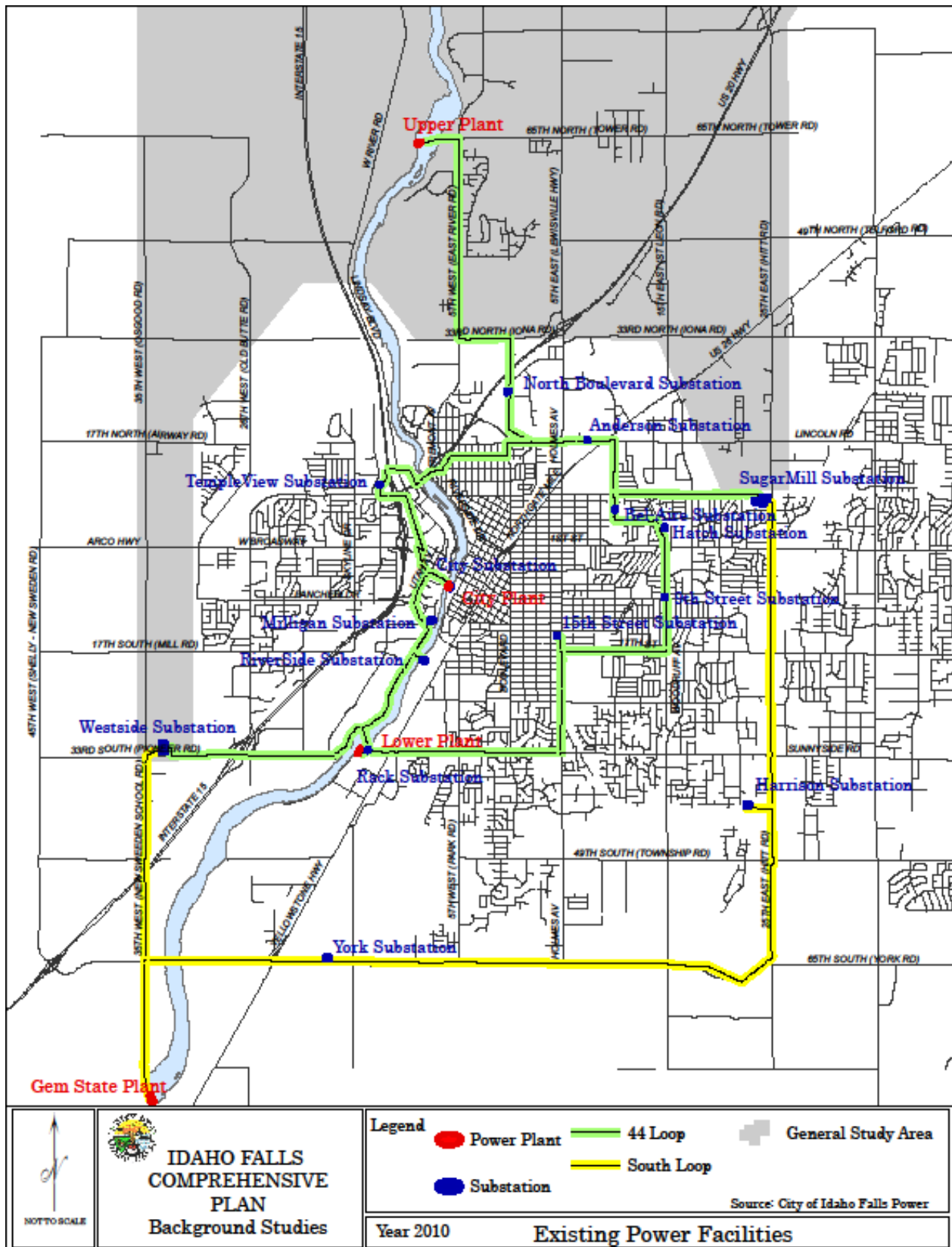
Along with the transmission lines on the north loop at least four substation sites will be needed. Further, additional substation sites in the southern part of the City are needed as part of the southern 161 kV transmission line. A site was recently acquired immediately north of Sandy Downs.

Other Facilities

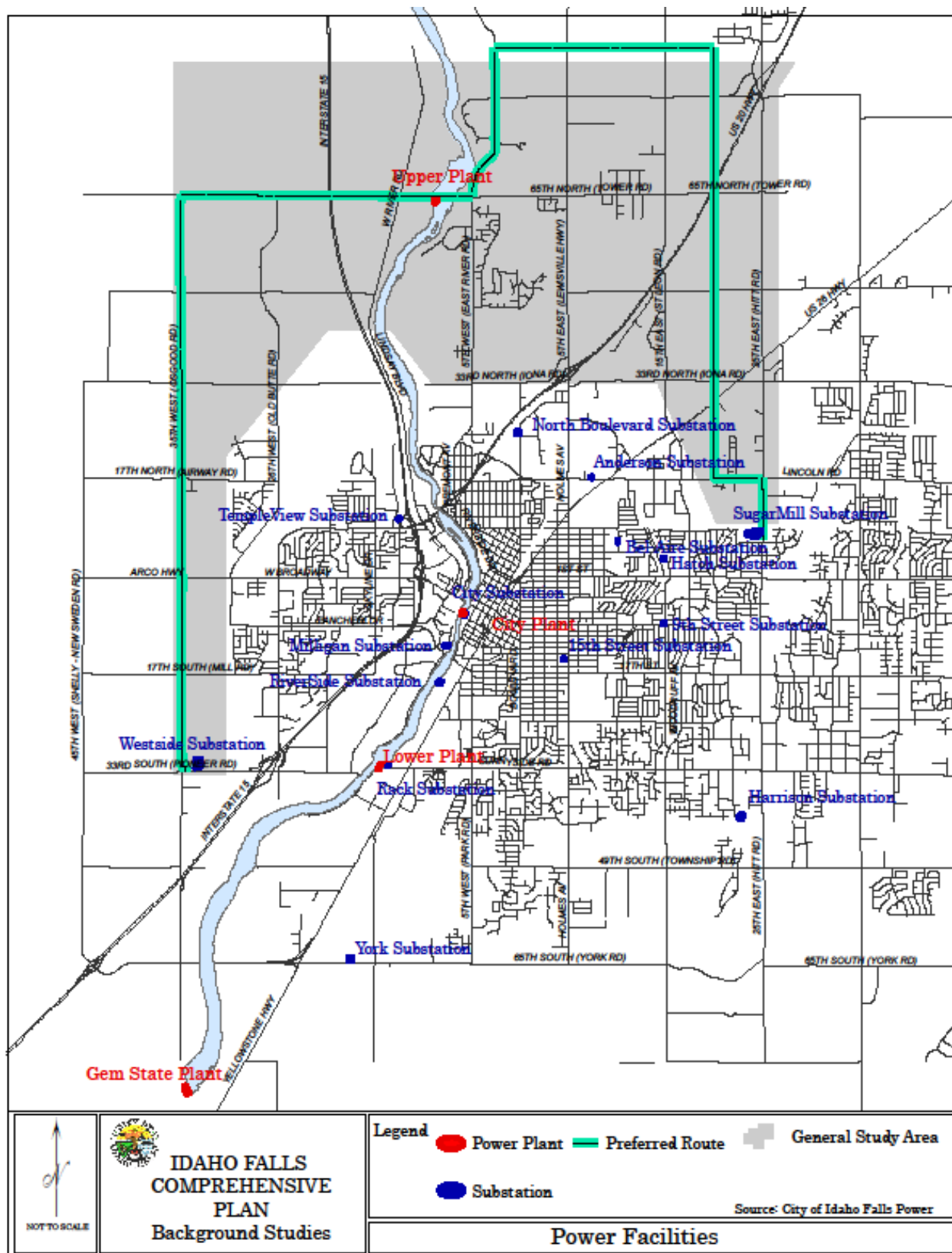
The transmission study update also recommended Idaho Falls Power examine the development and implementation of “smart grid” technology. This includes fiber optic networks and automated systems. Smart grid systems are expected to increase the overall reliability and efficiency of the power system. The department began providing “dark” fiber in 2005. Dark fiber is simply the fiber optic lines with no existing service. The fiber connections are leased by end users and internet providers for data sharing, internet service, or other applications. Currently all new commercial development is required to provide a spare conduit as housing for future fiber optic cable. Map 24 shows the current fiber network.

Outside Purchases

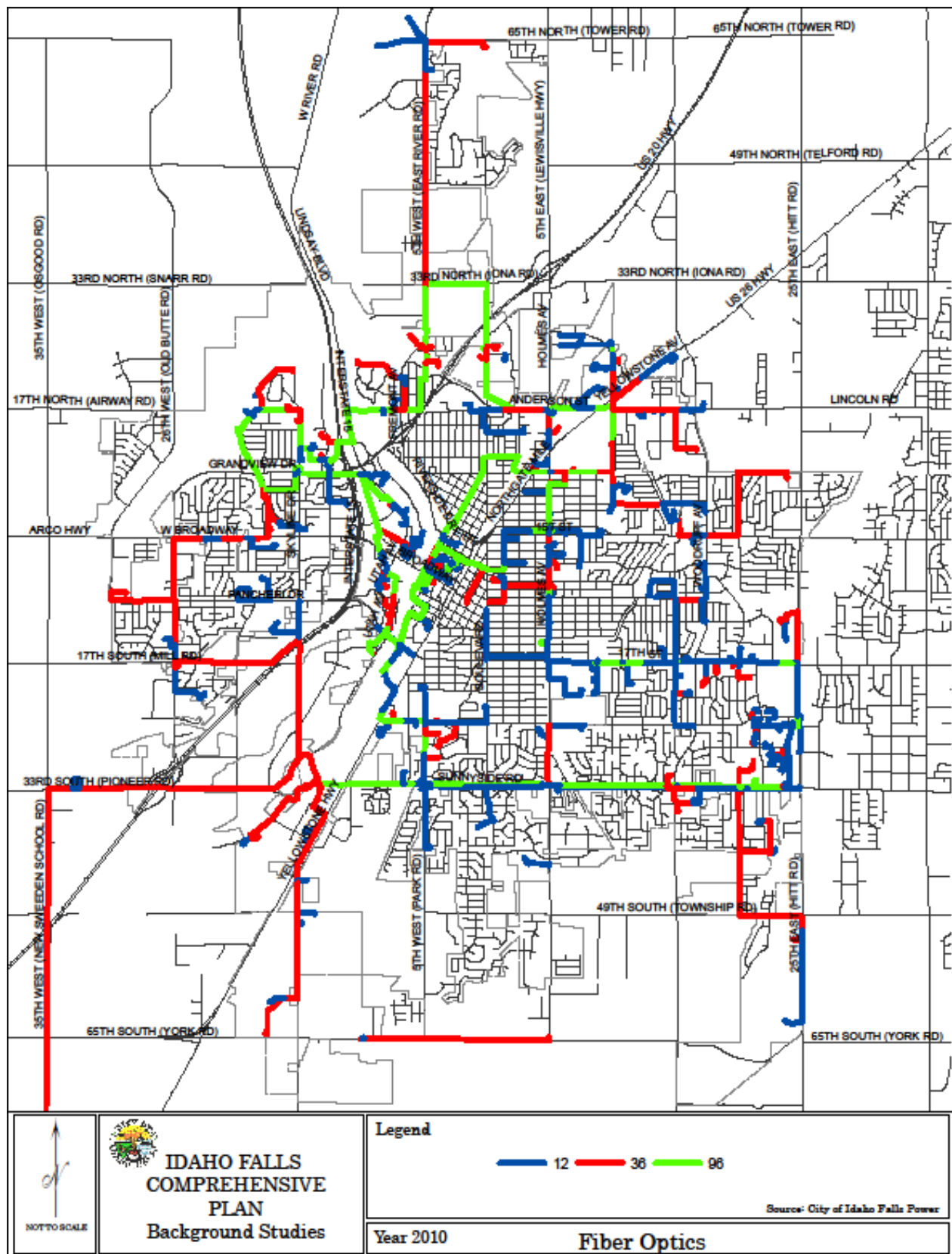
Idaho Falls Power will continue to make outside power purchases to meet consumption needs. As in the past, these will come primarily from Bonneville Power Administration. A 20 year contract was recently signed with BPA to provide electricity from the Federal Columbia River Hydropower System. Idaho Falls Power is also has a 2MW partnership with Utah Associated Municipal Power System (UAMPS) in a wind power project to constructed east of Idaho Falls. The Department will also consider alternative generating sources such as wind, solar, natural gas, and nuclear power.



Map 22



Map 23



Map 24

FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Background

Fire protection and emergency medical services for the City of Idaho Falls and parts of Bonneville County are provided by the Idaho Falls Fire Department. Ambulance services are also provided to parts of Bingham and Jefferson Counties.

The Fire Department currently employs 103 personnel including administrative staff and the Fire Chief. 94 members of the staff are trained and qualified to provide emergency medical services. The ratio of firefighters to 1,000-population is 1.57, which is above average for communities with similar populations.⁴

The department owns and operates 38 vehicles including 10 ambulances, nine pump trucks, two aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicles (ARFF), a Hazmat Response and D-Con trailer, and various other rescue and emergency vehicles. There are currently five fire stations, a Fire Prevention Bureau office, and a training facility. The fire stations serve approximately a 1.5-mile radius. The locations of the stations and their service areas are shown in Map 24. The department strives for a 3 minute response time for all calls. The current average response time is less than four minutes.

Needed Improvements

As shown in Map 24, there are areas in the south and southwest portions of the City which are outside the 1.5-mile service area. As the City continues to grow in that direction, the department will need to construct an additional station to ensure adequate fire and emergency medical services are provided to all parts of the City.

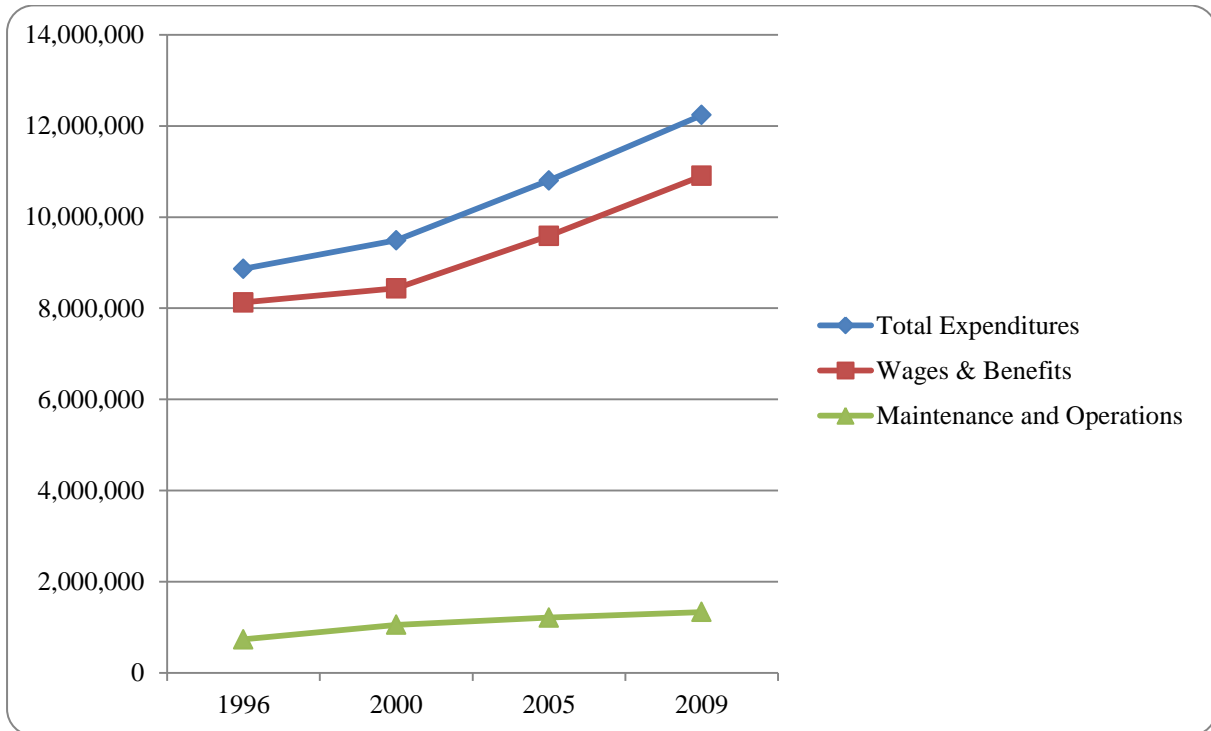
Budget

Table 23 outlines fire and ambulance expenditures except capital outlay from 1996-2009. Similar to the police department, maintenance and operations have increased dramatically during the time period. Total expenditures have increased 88.7% or 6.3% per year. Figure 3 charts this same data.

Table 23 Fire and Ambulance Expenditures 1996-2009 (Adjusted for Inflation)					
Expense	FY 1996	FY 2000	FY 2005	FY 2009	% Change
Wages & Benefits	\$8,127,696	\$8,435,775	\$9,588,133	\$10,902,239	34.1%
Maintenance & Operations	\$737,900	\$1,054,223	\$1,212,414	\$1,334,694	80.1%
Total	\$8,865,596	\$8,489,998	\$10,800,547	\$12,236,933	38.02%

⁴ *Organizing for Fire and Rescue Services*, Arthur Cote, pg. 89-90

Figure 3
Fire and Ambulance Expenditures 1996-2009 (Adjusted for Inflation)



IDAHO FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Background

The City of Idaho Falls Police Department provides police services within the corporate limits of Idaho Falls. The Police Department is divided into three divisions: the Uniform Division, Criminal Investigation Division, and Services Division. In 2010 there were 135 persons employed in the Police Department of which 91 were law enforcement officers.

The police department operates out of a central facility located at 605 North Capital Avenue, which also houses the Bonneville County Sheriff's operations. The department also operates an animal control center which was built in 1999-2000 as well as the dispatch center that serves the City of Idaho Falls and Bonneville County. Recently the department acquired by lease an annex building providing some additional office and training facilities.

Service Standards

There are 91 law enforcement officers serving a population of 58,077. The current officer per population ratio is one officer per 638 persons. The generally accepted standard as established by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) for a city of 50,000 people is one officer per 500 people. However, given the low crime rate in Idaho Falls, one officer per 600 people is sufficient.

Projected Demand

The estimated 2010 population of Idaho Falls was 58,077. By 2025 the population is projected to increase to 80,890, a three percent annual rate of increase. Table 24 shows how many officers will be needed to maintain current levels of service.

Table 24 Police Officer to Population Ratios			
Year	Population	1/500	1/638
2010	58,077	116	91
2015	65,172	130	102
2020	72,868	146	114
2025	80,890	162	127
SOURCE: Intermountain Demographics			

Needed Improvements

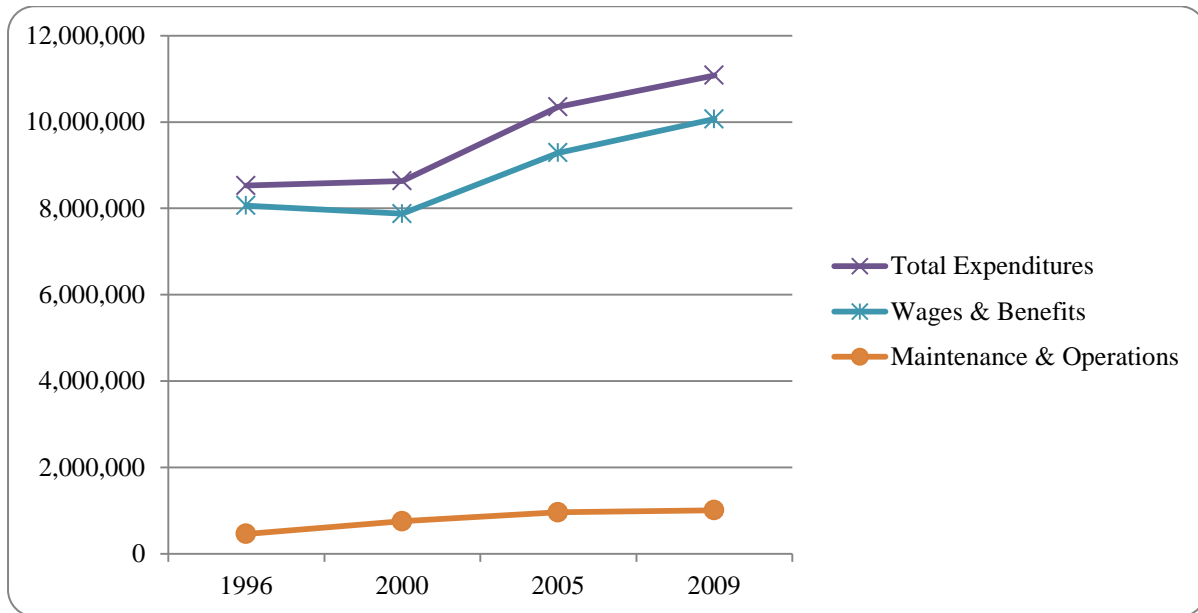
Office space at 605 North Capital Avenue and the annex building is insufficient. The department has investigated using a voter approved bond to approve funding for a new station. Such a bond may be introduced by 2011 depending on the state of the local economy. A recent architectural assessment recommends the new station be a two-story, 53,220 square foot building on a parcel of nearly three acres of land. The Department would like to stay as centrally located and close to the downtown area as possible.

Budget

Funding for the police department comes primarily from the City's general fund. Table 25 shows police department expenses from 1996-2009 and Figure 4 charts total expenditures for the time period. This information does not include capital outlay which can vary greatly from year to year. Total expenditures have increased 77.7% or 5.5% per year since 1996. The largest percentage increase has been in maintenance and operations, which have increased nearly 200% over the past 14 years.

Table 25 Police Department Expenditures 1996-2009 Adjusted for inflation					
Expense	FY 1996	FY 2000	FY 2005	FY 2009	% Change
Wages & Benefits	\$8,064,234	\$7,876,808	\$9,286,011	\$10,070,690	24.86
Maintenance & Operations	\$461,875	\$753,183	\$964,089	\$1,010,847	118.8
Total	\$8,526,109	\$8,633,728	\$10,348,966	\$11,081,537	21.36

Figure 4
Police Department Expenditures 1996-2009 Adjusted for Inflation



Background

The Idaho Falls Parks and Recreation Division maintains the City's parks, golf courses, zoo, cemeteries and other recreation facilities as well as the City's landscaped medians, grounds for public buildings, and storm water retention ponds. They also plant and maintain all trees, plants, and flowers on City property and take care of playground equipment and monuments. Besides maintenance, the department also provides programming for a variety of sports and other fitness activities.

Parks

The Parks Department is responsible for planning, development, and maintenance of nearly 1,600 acres of outdoor areas, approximately 1,475 acres of which are parks and golf courses. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) categorizes parks according to their use, size and location. For the purposes of this report, three of NRPA's categories are used here. Below is a description of each type of park. Table 26 also indicates the total acres of each category. A complete list of parks is included in Appendix B. Map 25 (pg. 70) shows the existing park system.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are described by NRPA as the basic unit of the park system. They primarily serve the neighborhoods within ¼-½ mile of their location but may have athletic facilities which occasionally are used by a broader community. Generally they should be 5-10 acres in size; however for this report total acres of neighborhood parks includes mini-parks and storm ponds which are generally smaller and have no facilities other than grass and trees. Also included are school parks. While not designed or maintained by the City, school parks are often the nearest and most accessible park facilities. As Table 29 (pg. 66) shows neighborhood parks, when storm ponds are included, have increased 31.16 acres or 20.5% since 1992. Nearly all of this increase has come in the form of storm water retention ponds.

Table 26 Idaho Falls Parks 1992 and 2010			
Acres			
Park Type	1992	2010	% Change
Neighborhood (City Owned)	54.46	56.96	4.5%
Storm Pond	10.5	39.16	279%
School Park	86.4	86.4	--
Total Neighborhood	151.36	182.52	20.5%
Community	170	187	10%
Snake River Greenbelt	32	41.7	30.3%
Special Use and Sports Areas	1,056	1,203	13.9%
Total Parks	1,409.36	1,614.22	14.5%

Community Parks

NRPA specifies community parks as those meeting community-based recreation needs. They are typically 30-50 acres in size and serve a ½-3 mile radius. Since 1993 community parks have increased 17 acres or 10%. All 17 acres are in Mel Erickson (Sunnyside) Park on the north side of Sunnyside Road. Although smaller than the NRPA recommended size, Mel Erickson Park was included as a community park because it has limited access to the adjacent neighborhood, its primary access is from a major arterial, and it provides a variety of athletic facilities.

Snake River Greenbelt

The landscape and trail areas along the Snake River could be labeled with a number of NRPA classifications. It is listed separate here because of its uniqueness and special function within the City. Greenbelt activities include sightseeing, walking and jogging, bicycling, picnicking, wildlife areas, boating, and water skiing. There are some areas along the river such as Capital Park which also include

playground equipment. Since 1992 Greenbelt development has increased by nearly 10 acres. Some of this growth is due to differences in reporting inventory, but there is also the addition of Centennial Trail, Eagle Rock Plaza, the Pier at Snake River Landing, and a trail connecting Pancheri with Sunnyside.

Special Use and Sports Areas

This is a combination of two NRPA categories. Special use parks are oriented towards single-purpose visits, similar to sport activities. In 1992 there were 1074 acres of special use parks and sports areas. By 2010 that number had grown to 1,203 acres an increase of 12%. A large part of this growth is the Old Butte Soccer Complexes which cover approximately 88 acres. The completion of Sandy Downs will eventually add approximately 50 acres to this total, some of which may also be included as a community park.

Standards

Park Acres per 1,000 Residents

In years past the NRPA provided a set of standards indicating how many acres of each type of park a community should provide per 1,000 residents. More recently however, NRPA has modified their guidebook to help communities develop their own standards based on their individual needs rather than relying on a one-size-fits-all model. One of the reasons NRPA left these standards was because they ignore the quality and facilities of parks. They deal only with number of acres. For example, as mentioned above, although the total acres of neighborhood parks have increased 20%, it has primarily been through storm ponds which generally have few trees or facilities. Standards should be developed based on community surveys, demands for service, participation rates, population trends, and trends in recreation interests. This is important for a city like Idaho Falls because surrounding communities such as Ammon and unincorporated areas of Bonneville County provide very few parks and recreation facilities other than school grounds. In reality then, Idaho Falls parks are serving a population much greater than the 58,077 used here. Because the City has not yet developed its own standards for parks, Table 27 compares former NRPA standards with park acres to 1,000 resident ratios in 1993 and 2010. The community park ratio includes the Snake River Greenbelt.

Table 27 Idaho Falls Park Acres per 1,000 Residents				
Park Type	NRPA Standard	1992 Ratios	2010 Ratios	% Change
Neighborhood	1.25-2.00	3.42	3.13	-8.7%
Community	5.00-8.00	4.57	3.93	-14%
Total	6.25-10.50	31.9	27.7	-13.1%

Service Radius

One of the standards NRPA has not abandoned is service radius for parks. Table 28 lists recommended park service areas. For special-use and sports areas, location should be strategic based on needs of the community and do not have a specific radius. Also, Tautphaus and Freeman Parks are large enough to be considered large urban parks which are designed to serve the entire community. Map 26 shows the service radius of neighborhood parks only. This includes school parks and storm water retention facilities. As the map shows, Fairway Estates and portions of the southeast area of the City do not have a neighborhood park within a ¼-½ mile. The central, west, and east areas of the City are rich in neighborhood parks.

Table 28 NRPA Park Service Radius Recommendations	
Classification	Location Criteria
Neighborhood Park	¼-½ mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers
Community Park	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3-mile distance
Large Urban Park	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community
SOURCE: NRPA's Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines	

Level of Service

The goal of creating park standards and tracking where deficiencies exist is to ensure the community's expected level of parks service is maintained. Since 1992 the acreage per person for all parks has fallen. Idaho Falls still exceeds previous NRPA standards for neighborhood and total park acreage but to date the development of parks has not maintained pace with population growth and level of service standards set in the 1980's and 1990's. From 1992 to 2010, estimated population increased from 44,110 to 58,077 or 31.6%. As shown in Table 27 above, parks did not keep this same rate of growth during the time period. By 2025, population is projected to increase 39.2% over 2010 estimates for a total of 80,890 residents. Table 29 compares how many acres of parks are needed to maintain the same level of service as in 1992 with current estimated population and 2025 projected population. As the table shows, Idaho Falls has a projected demand of nearly 1,000 total acres of new parks by 2025. Approximately 100 acres are needed for neighborhood parks. Community parks will need to double in size from their current acreage to maintain the 1980's level of service.

Table 29 Acres of Parks Needed to Maintain 1992 Level of Service				
Park Type	1992 Acres	Current Acres Needed to Maintain 1992 Level of Service	Actual 2010 Acres	Estimated Acres Needed In 2025 to Maintain 1992 Levels of Service
Neighborhood	151	198.6	182	276.6
Community	170	265.4	187	369.6
Total	1,409	1,852.6	1,613.7	2,580.3

Improvements

Planning for additional parks and recreation facilities involves more than acquiring land. It also requires increases in staff and equipment to maintain the facilities. Table 30 shows a list of planned projects through FY 2016 for the Parks and Recreation Department. The next section and Table 31 compares the department's budget in FY 1996 with FY 2009. Master plans for Ryder Park, Sandy Downs, and Tautphaus Park Zoo are included in Appendix C.

Ryder Park

The largest planned project in terms of acres is Ryder Park. When completed it will add approximately 58 acres of community park space to the City. As mentioned, the master plan for Ryder Park is included in Appendix C. Ryder will be a unique addition to the Idaho Falls parks system. Rather than sports facilities and playing fields it includes natural landscape, an educational interpretive center, fishing ponds, wildlife habitat areas, and a boat launch. Construction of the first phase began in 2009.

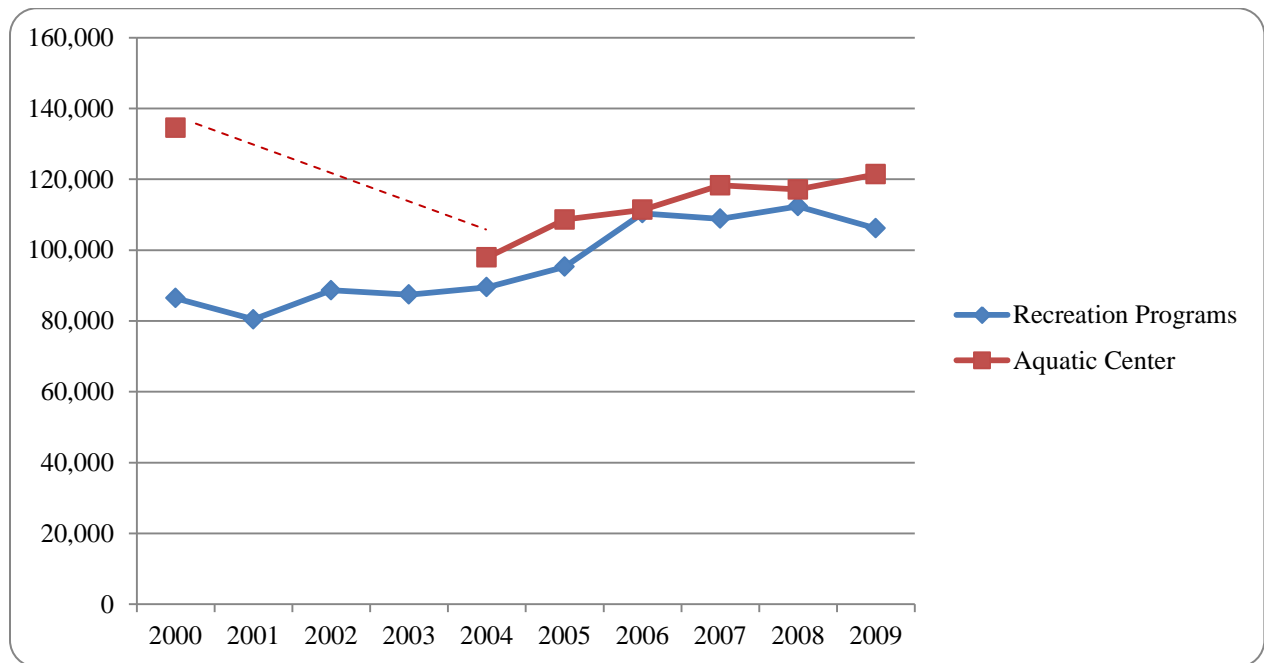
<p align="center">Table 30 Parks & Recreation Planned Projects</p>			
Project	Estimated Cost	Fiscal Year	Fund
Sandy Downs			
Master Plan Implementations	TBD	FY2010-15	Grants/Donations/General Fund
Parks			
Tautphaus Park Ice Rink Shelter Addition	\$1,730,000	FY2010	General Fund/Donations
Ryder Park-Urban Fishery Phase 2	\$125,000	FY2010	General Fund/Donations
Melaleuca Field Outfield Fence	\$500,000	FY2011	General Fund/Donations
Old Butte Road Shelter	\$20,000	FY2012	General Fund
South Park Project (Smith Property)	\$1,300,000	FY2011-12	General Fund/Donations
The Dunes-Pathway Phase I	\$103,697	TBD	General Fund/Grants
The Dunes-Pathway Phase II	\$111,853	TBD	General Fund/Grants
Zoo			
Winter Holding Barn	\$175,000	FY2010	2/3 General Fund/1/3 Grant
Children Zoo Barn	\$100,000	TBD	Grant

Recreation

The recreation department is responsible for the development and implementation of leisure activities for participants of all ages and interests. These program activities take place throughout the City. The recreation department manages the Idaho Falls Aquatic Center, the Reinhart Outdoor Swimming Pool, the Tautphaus Park Ice Rink, the Activity Center, and the Recreation Center. Programs offered include: baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, dance, jujitsu, art, cross-country skiing, ice skating, swimming, water fitness, and swim teams. The department also facilitates group programs such as youth soccer, Idaho Falls Youth Hockey, and the Idaho Falls Swim Team.

Although participation in recreation programs varies from year to year, patron participation has generally increased steadily for the past 10 years. Figure 5 shows number of participations for recreation programs and the Aquatic Center. Participations not only include the number of individual users for a given program, but also multiply each participant on a team by the number of games or meets for the group. This shows more accurately how often facilities are actually being used and by how many people. Figure 5 shows, the Aquatic Center draws more patrons per year than all other recreation programs combined. Other popular recreation programs include basketball, t-ball, baseball and softball, and ice skating/hockey.

Figure 5
Annual Recreation and Aquatic Center Participations⁵



Financing

Revenue for the parks, zoo, cemeteries, golf courses, recreation programs, and facilities come from a combination of service charges, fees, and general fund revenues. Grants and payments from the State of Idaho also contribute revenue to pay for the operation of the Parks and Recreation Division. Other funding sources come from grants, bonds, foundations and donations. Table 31 below compares the division's budget from 1996 to 2009. The Parks and Recreation budget has increased an average of 2.6% per year since 1996. Even if capital outlays are not included because of their wide fluctuation, the budget still increased a total of 20% or an average of 1.5% per year.

Expense	FY 1996	FY 2009	% Change
Wages & Benefits	\$3,952,255	\$4,951,002	25.27%
Maintenance & Operations	\$1,839,805	\$2,719,120	47.7%
Capital Outlay	\$582,908	\$863,866	48.1%
Total	\$6,375,071	\$8,533,990	33.8%

Figure 6 shows the budgets for each of the departments in the Parks and Recreation division. These budgets do not include capital outlays, as this item fluctuates from year to year. Figure 7 compares recreation department revenues and expenses for the past four years. Recreation programs are designed to pay for their own expenses, which they generally have accomplished.

⁵ 2001-2003 data for the Aquatic Center is unavailable

Figure 6
Parks and Recreation Department Budgets 1996-2009 Adjusted for Inflation

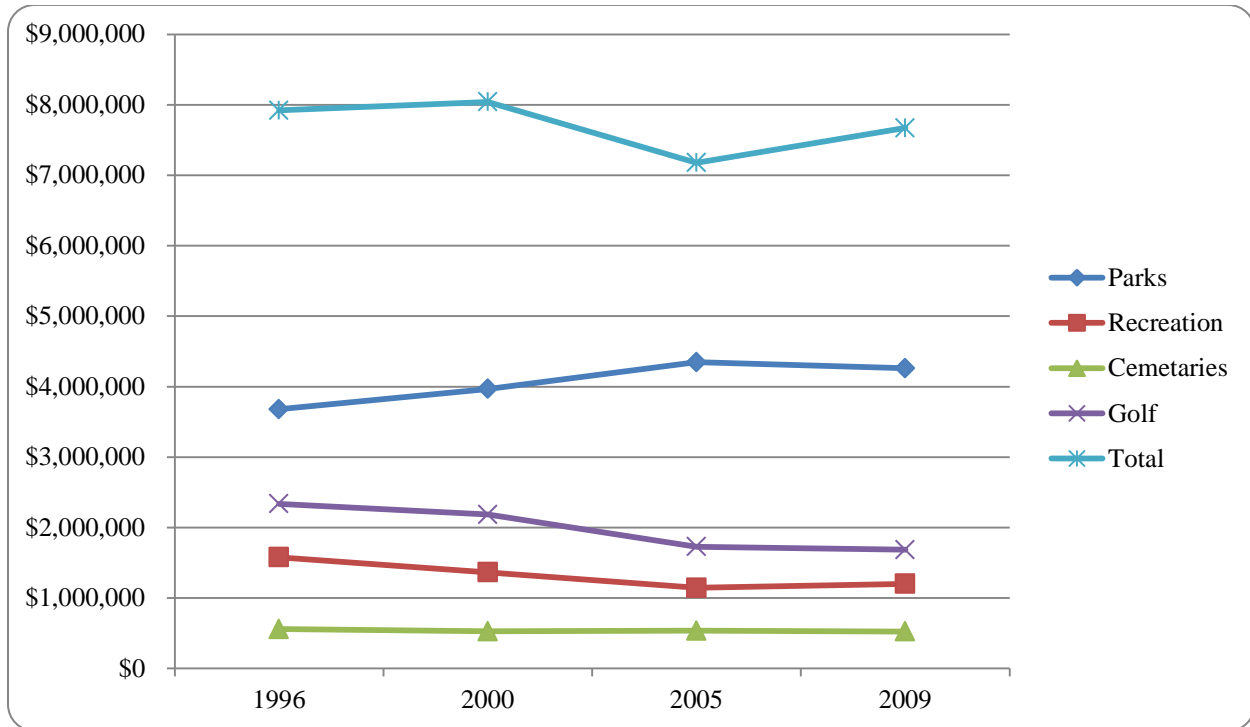
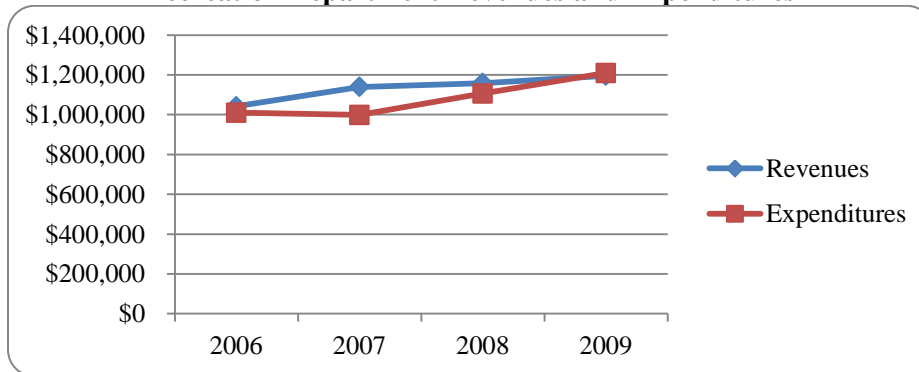
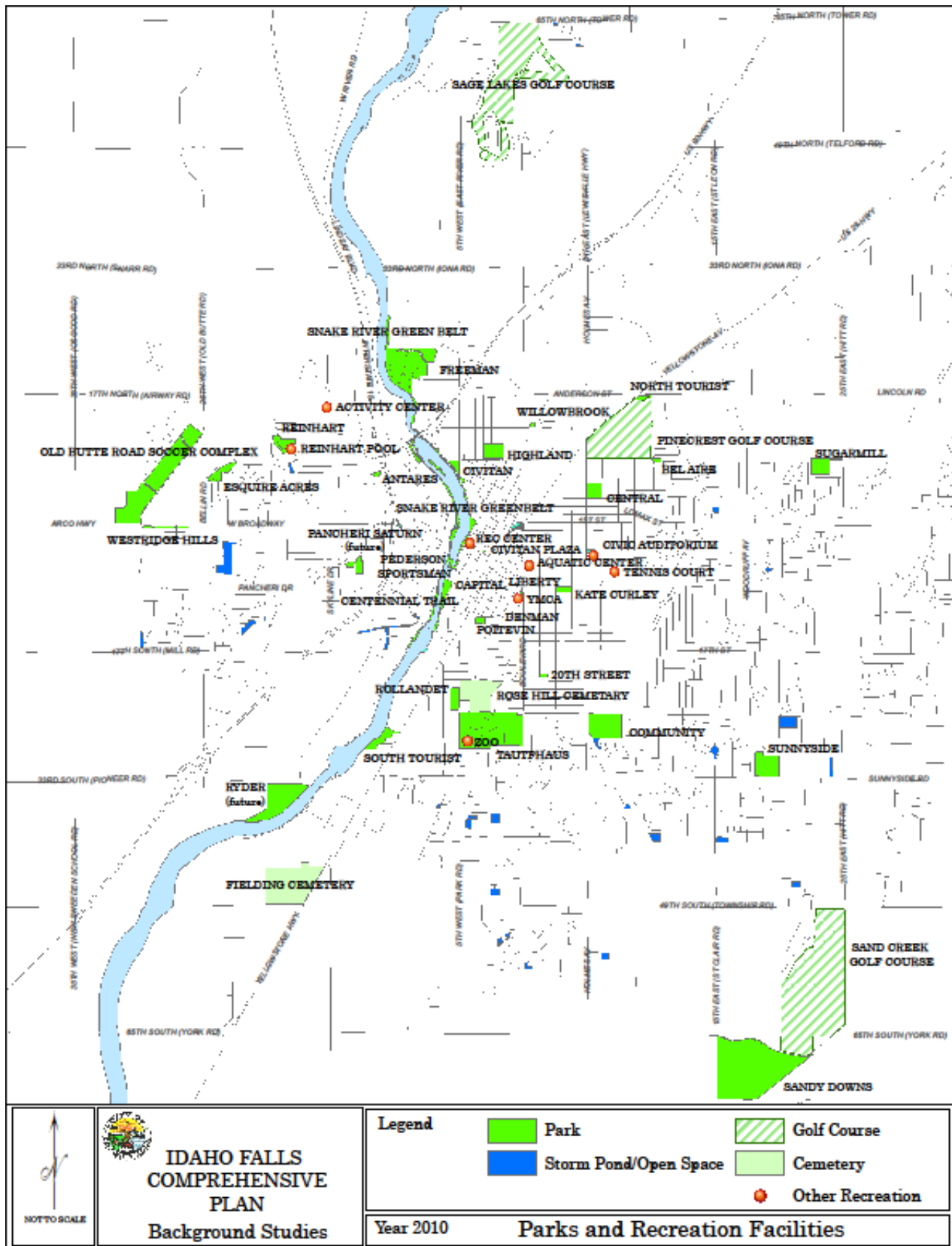
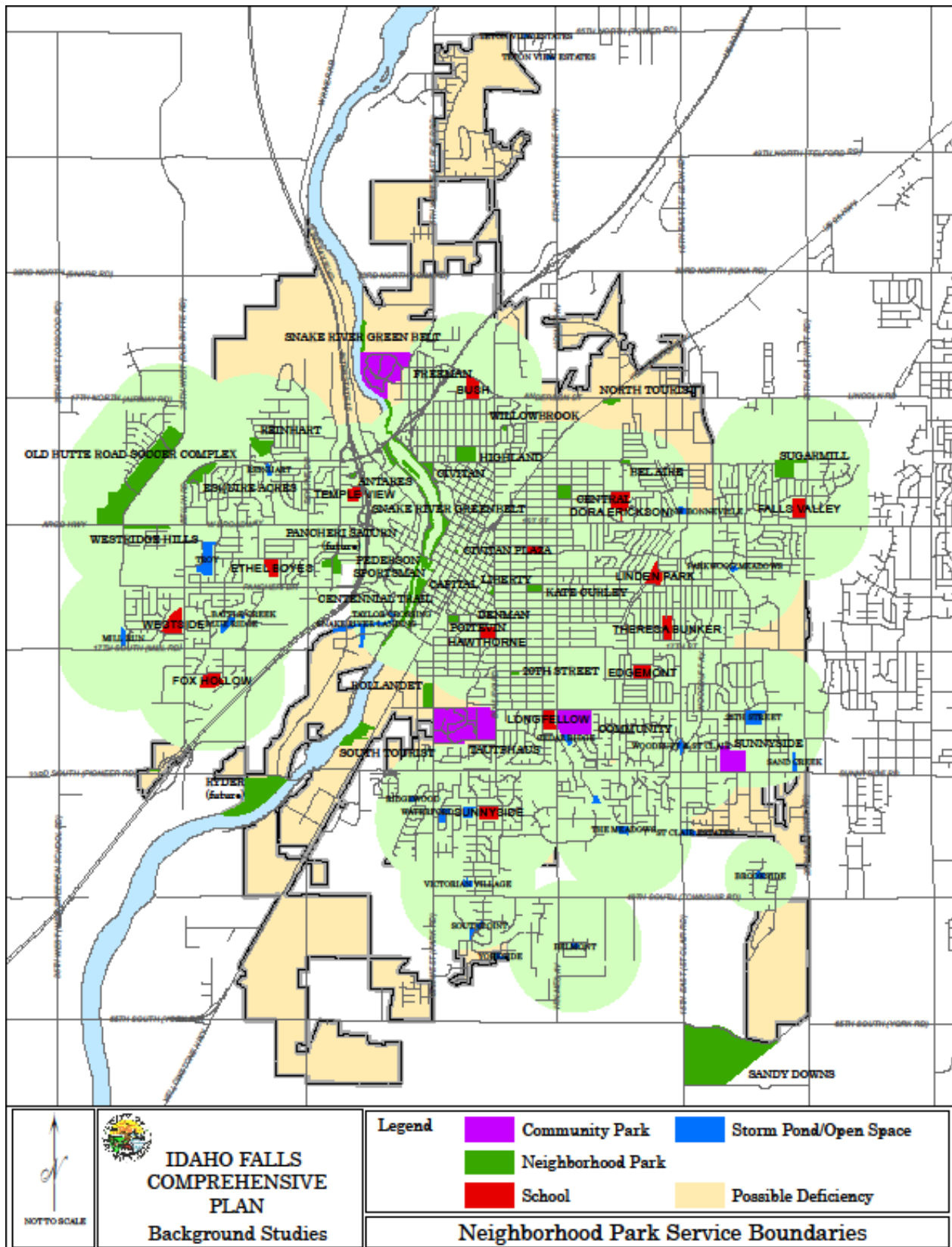


Figure 7
Recreation Department Revenues and Expenditures







IDAHO FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Background

Public libraries began in Idaho Falls in 1884 when a public reading room containing three to four hundred volumes was opened by the Baptist Church. In 1908, this library was turned over to the City of Idaho Falls. The City created a library board and set a property tax levy exclusively earmarked for library purposes.

In 1916, the Andrew Carnegie Library, financed by an incentive grant from the Andrew Carnegie Corporation, was built at the intersection of Elm and Eastern and served the needs of the City until the existing Idaho Falls Public Library was built and opened in 1977. The current 65,000 square foot building is located at the corner to Broadway and Capital Avenue in downtown.

In 1980, the Bonneville County Commissioners formed a Bonneville County Library District. One year after formation, the Board contracted with the Idaho Falls Public Library to provide free services in Bonneville County outside the City of Idaho Falls. Small library branches supported by the library district are located at the Iona City Hall and the Swan Valley Elementary School.

Projected Use and Needs

According to projections from Intermountain Demographics, the Bonneville County population is expected to grow to 147,073 by 2025. This increase in population will in turn generate an increase in the number of registered borrowers at the library and additional items to adequately serve those borrowers. Table 32 on the following page shows growth needed by 2025 to maintain the current level service. It also projects what is needed to maintain the same rate of growth that occurred between 1995 and 2010. The table shows if the same rate of growth occurs, by 2025 there will be nearly 100,000 borrowers and over 440,000 total items needed. Also, assuming the same rates of growth shows expenses may exceed revenues within the next 15 years. The following sections further discuss each of these needs.

Library Materials

The library presently holds 289,783 items for an average of 2.74 items per capita. Approximately 20,000 new items are purchased each year and 5,000-6,000 items are removed from shelves due to wear and age. This net gain of 15,000 items per year is more than adequate to meet the projected needs for the next 15 years. One potential challenge will be available shelving space. The current facility may have enough floor space to hold the items, but it may result in decreased seating areas for patrons. Potential facility options are discussed below.

Physical Facility

The current building was designed to serve an estimated population of 45,000-50,000 people. 2010 population estimates for Bonneville County and Idaho Falls were 105,594 and 58,077 respectively. To expand current capacity and meet the needs of a growing population, options such as creating a book mobile program and developing small, one room branch locations have been discussed. As mentioned, branch locations currently exist in Iona and Swan Valley. Other alternatives for expansion include increasing floor space in the existing location or developing a branch library in a high growth area of the City. If floor space in the existing building increases, available parking, which is already a concern, will need to increase.

Finances

Revenues for the library for fiscal year 2008-2009 totaled \$2,494,272. Revenues for the library's budget come from property taxes, Bonneville County Library District contract payments, sales taxes, contributions and trust funds, and fees and charges to patrons. Currently, revenues exceed expenditures. However, as Table 31 shows, if revenues and expenses grow at the same rates for the next 15 years as they did between 1995-2010, expenses will exceed revenue.

Table 32 Library Borrowers, Items, Revenues, and Expenses					
Measure	1995	2010	Percent Change	Needed by 2025 to Maintain 2010 Standards	Needed by 2025 to Maintain Rates of Change from 1995-2010
Population served	79,531	105,594	32.7%	147,073	147,073
Registered borrowers	46,844	67,848	44.8	94,126	98,243
Percent registered borrowers	59%	64%	8%	64%	66.7%
Total items held	190,715	289,783	51.9%	402,980	440,180
Items per capita	2.4	2.74	14%	2.74	2.99
Total revenues	\$1,246,684	\$2,494,272 (FY 2008)	100%	\$3,474,061 ⁶	\$4,988,544
Total expenses	\$1,157,963	\$2,468,582 (FY 2008)	113%	\$3,438,280	\$5,258,079

⁶ Total revenues and total expenses in this column are based on revenues and expenses per capita in 2010.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Background

Idaho Falls serves as the center for health care and medical services for the region. It is one of the fastest growing industries in the City. There are two hospitals in Idaho Falls, Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC) and Mountain View Hospital.

Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center

Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center is a privately owned and operated hospital providing a range of health and wellness services. It functions as a regional facility, drawing patients from a population of over 300,000 throughout the area. It contains 331 licensed beds as well as 10 nursery beds. The average annual occupancy rate is 59 to 63%. Because of its regional draw, EIRMC provides more specialized medical care than a typical local hospital. For example, the hospital offers specialized cardiovascular care as well as a cancer center. EIRMC also houses Idaho's only Level 1 intensive care unit and Idaho's only trauma center recognized by the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma.

Plans for expansion include a 24,000 square foot neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). This will include 26 new beds for neonatal care. The expansion includes future plans for a second and possibly third floor as needed. EIRMC also owns property near the hospital for future growth.

Mountain View Hospital

Mountain View Hospital is physician owned and operates primarily as a local facility. There are currently 40 licensed beds, 260 employees, and 40 volunteer staff. While it does not offer some of the more specialized medical care found at a regional facility such as EIRMC, the hospital offers a full range of care services. It also operates two off-site urgent care facilities. Mountain View recently completed an expansion to the north side of their main building which added eight operating rooms and additional trauma care area to the main level, and 16 patient/post-partum rooms to the second level. Future plans for the next 5-10 years may include increasing obstetric and psychiatric services. There may also be a need for a separate rehabilitation hospital, although this is not likely to occur until the latter part of the planning period.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Background

Educational opportunities in Idaho Falls range from elementary schools to higher education centers. Public education for school-aged children is provided through two school districts: Idaho Falls School District 91 and Bonneville Joint School District 93. There are also five privately operated primary and secondary schools within District 91 boundaries. Idaho Falls also includes three higher education schools: Eastern Idaho Technical College, Idaho State University—Idaho Falls, and University of Idaho—Idaho Falls.

Primary and Secondary Education

Physical Facilities

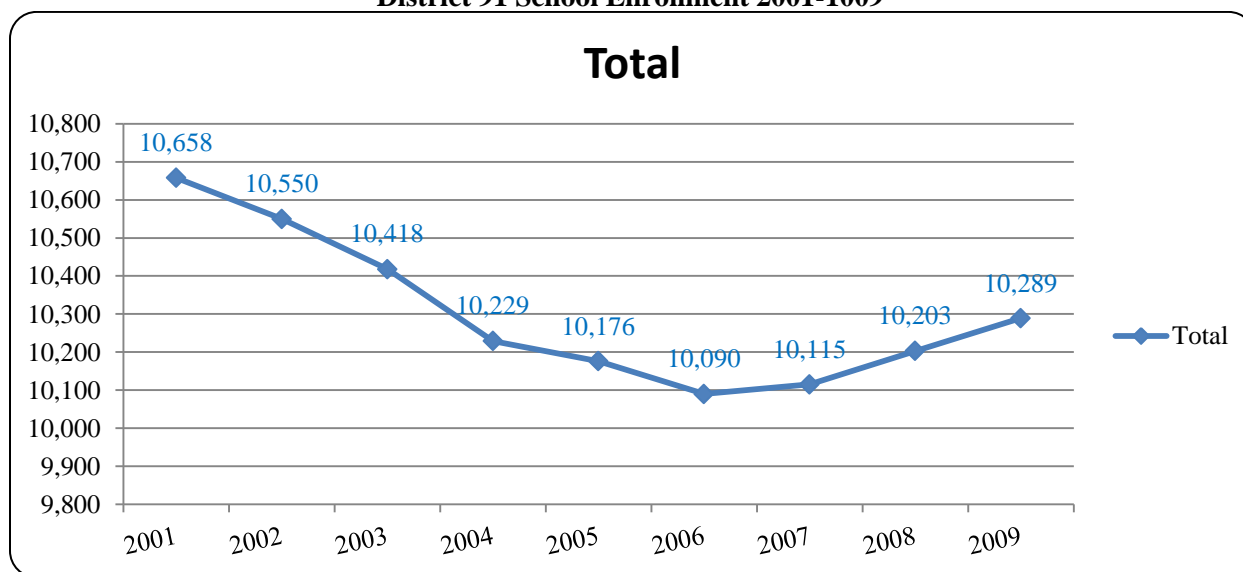
As of the 2008-2009 school year District 91 serves approximately 10,270 students in Idaho Falls with a total of 1,402 employees. A low student-teacher ratio of 22.5:1 is maintained through a patron supported supplemental levy. District 93 provides one elementary school located on the east side of the city, which services 625 students.

District 91 operates eighteen schools including twelve elementary schools, three junior high schools, two high schools, and one alternative high school. In addition, District 91 provides support for off-site learning facilities at 3B Juvenile Detention Center and Idaho Youth Ranch Harbor House. Seventeen modular classrooms are also owned and maintained by the District.

Enrollment

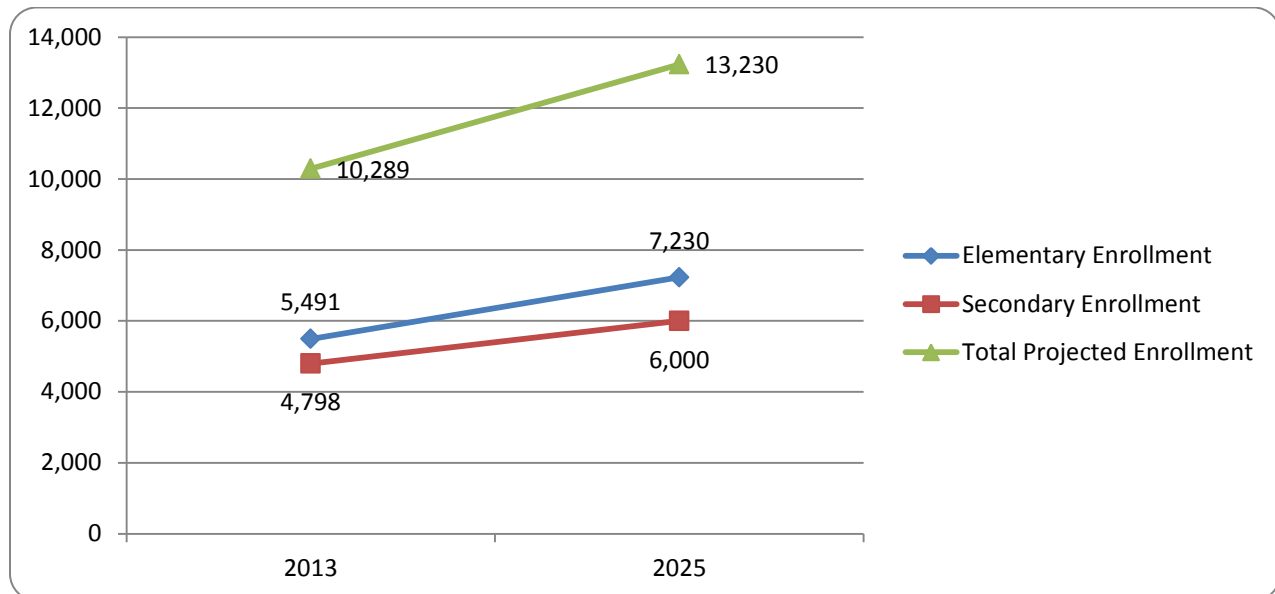
School enrollment in School District 91 experienced a long period of decline between 1994 when the Idaho National Laboratory downsized and 2007. Figure 8 shows enrollment totals from 2001-2009. A recent demographics study completed for the district project enrollment will increase 30% by 2025. Figure 9 shows these projected enrollments.

Figure 8
District 91 School Enrollment 2001-2009



SOURCE: Intermountain Demographics

Figure 9
District 91 Projected Enrollment



SOURCE: Intermountain Demographics

Future Needs

Enrollment, growth trends, and available funding all affect personnel and physical facility decisions. With projected increased enrollment additional capacity is needed. In order to build a new school, the student population within the community must be large enough to support an additional building. Funding for a new school is included in a proposed \$57.5 million bond. The bond also includes funding to rebuild four elementary schools and upgrade, remodel, and build additions to other schools in the district. If passed, this will increase capacity at most elementary schools throughout the district.

Private Schools

In addition to public schools, primary and secondary education is also available through five privately funded schools. Current facilities are the Adventist Christian School (grades 1, 3-5, 7) with 7 students, Calvary Chapel Christian School (grades Pre Kindergarten-6) with 247 students, Holy Rosary Bi-Parish School (grades Pre Kindergarten -6) with 181 students, Hope Lutheran School (grades Pre Kindergarten-6) with 129 students and The King's Academy (grades 1-11) with 33 students.

Higher Education

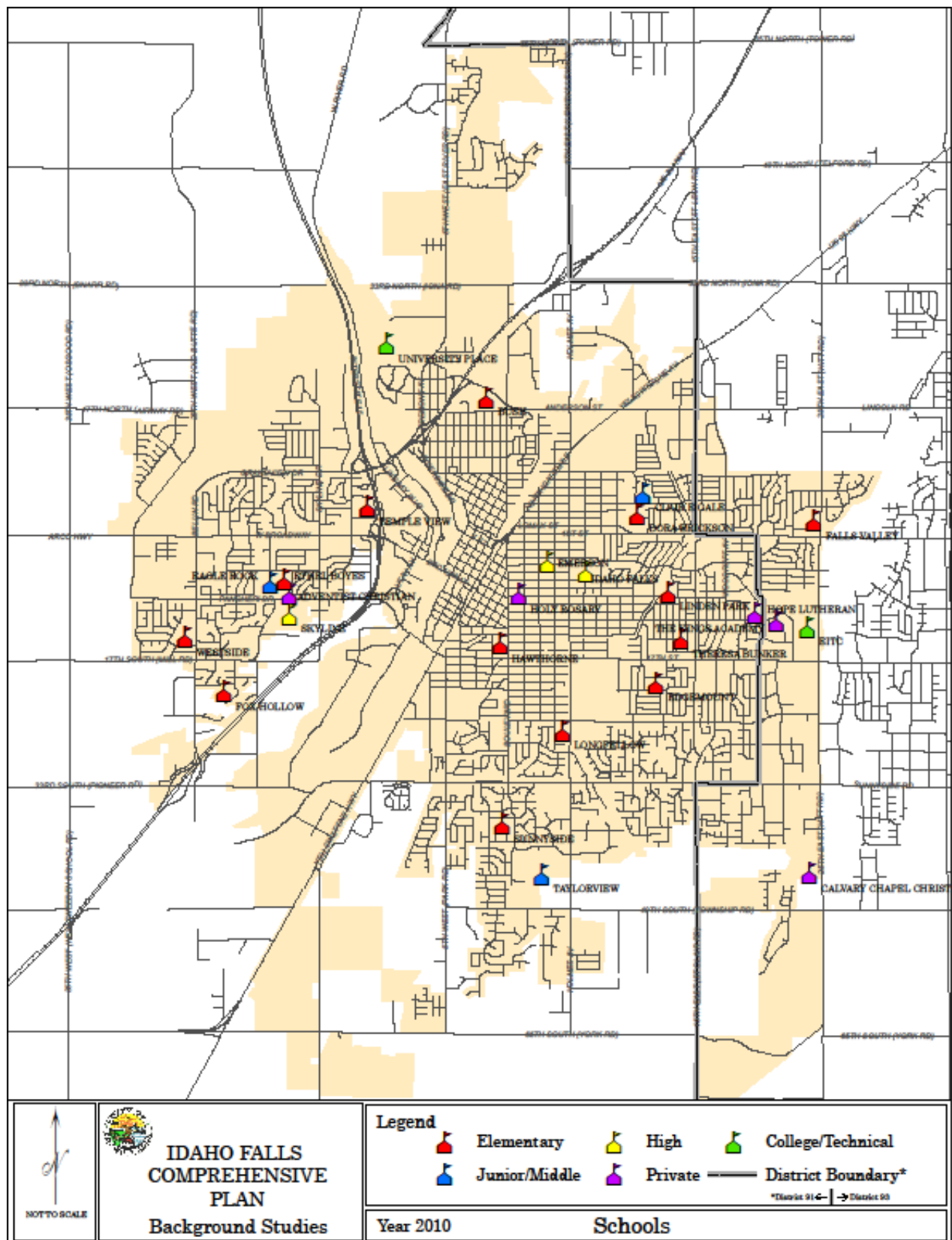
Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC) is a comprehensive technical college operated under the authority of the Idaho State Board of Professional-Technical Education. 42 pre-employment technical programs as well as continuing education courses are offered in response to the unmet needs of regional employers and the interests of the students. EITC provides a faculty/student ratio of 1:15. 2008-2009 enrollment was 1,410 students.

University Place is home to Idaho State University-Idaho Falls and University of Idaho-Idaho Falls. Idaho State University -Idaho Falls is the largest provider of higher-education opportunities in Idaho Falls with a typical enrollment of 2000. Degrees available include complete associate, bachelor, master, and doctoral programs. Currently ISU is working on a proposal to increase available general credit hours by

25%. Revenue from these courses will be reinvested toward creating additional degree programs in Idaho Falls.

University of Idaho – Idaho Falls also provides programs ranging from associate to doctoral degrees. Typical enrollment is 500. University of Idaho partnership with Idaho State University allows students greater access to courses in Idaho Falls.

University Place has created a master plan to extend the campus by building an overpass across the railroad tracks to connect with the Center for Advance Energy Studies. The plan also includes a new building to house the library, televised education classrooms and testing center.



Map 28

Appendix A

Listing of Soils for Community Development

Soils with Slight Limitations for Community Development:

- 6 Bannock Loam
- 7 Bock Loam
- 11 Heiseton Fine Sandy Loam
- 20 Packam Gravelly Loam
- 47 Stan Sandy Loam

Soils with Moderate Limitations for Community Development

- 22 Pancheri Silt Loam, 0-2% Slopes
- 23 Pancheri Silt Loam, 2-4% Slopes
- 24 Pancheri Silt Loam, 4-8% Slopes
- 25 Pancheri Silt Loam, 8-15% Slopes

Soils with Severe Limitations for Community Development

- 1 Ammon Silt Loam, 0-2% Slopes
- 2 Ammon Silt Loam, 2-4% Slopes
- 21 Paesi Silty Clay Loam
- 28 Paul Silty Clay Loam
- 33 Polatis-Rock Outcrop Complex

Appendix B
Existing Parks Including Storm Ponds and Schools⁷

Park Type	Park Name	Acres
Community	Sunnyside (Mel Erikson) Park	17
Community (CP)	Community Park	33
Community (CP)	Freeman Park	57
Community (CP)	Tautphaus Park	80
		187
Neighborhood (School)	A.H. Bush	6.5
Neighborhood (School)	Dora Erickson	7.6
Neighborhood (School)	Edgemeont	7.3
Neighborhood (School)	Emerson	4
Neighborhood (School)	Ethel Boyes	6.5
Neighborhood (School)	Falls Valley	6.3
Neighborhood (School)	Fox Hollow	5.8
Neighborhood (School)	Hawthorne	5.4
Neighborhood (School)	Linden Park	6.1
Neighborhood (School)	Longfellow	7.5
Neighborhood (School)	Sunnyside	6.9
Neighborhood (School)	Temple View	4
Neighborhood (School)	Theresa Bunker	4.3
Neighborhood (School)	Westside	9.4
Neighborhood	Denman Park	0.5
Neighborhood	Mill Run Pond	3
Neighborhood	Blue Ridge Pond	1.79
Neighborhood	Stonebrook Pond	4
Neighborhood	Parkwood Meadows Pond	2
Neighborhood	Brookside Pond	0.9
Neighborhood	Victorian Village Pond	3
Neighborhood	Meadows Pond	2
Neighborhood	25th Street Pond	2.7
Neighborhood	Belmont Estates Pond	1.5
Neighborhood	Waterford Pond #2	1.095
Neighborhood	Waterford Pond #1	1.85
Neighborhood	Ridgewood Pond	0.688
Neighborhood	West Ridge Hills	2

⁷ (CP) Indicates park was included in 1993 Background Studies

Neighborhood	St. Clair/Woodruff Pond	2.137
Neighborhood (CP)	20th Street	0.86
Neighborhood (CP)	Antares	1.15
Neighborhood (CP)	Bel Aire	1.17
Neighborhood (CP)	Central Park	8.09
Neighborhood (CP)	Civitan Park	4.22
Neighborhood (CP)	Elm St. (Liberty)	0.66
Neighborhood (CP)	Esquire Acres	11
Neighborhood (CP)	Highland Park	4
Neighborhood (CP)	Kate Curley Park	3.67
Neighborhood (CP)	Poitevin Park	3.67
Neighborhood (CP)	Reinhart Park	8.12
Neighborhood (CP)	Sugar Mill Park	6.5
Neighborhood (CP)	Troy Pond	12.5
Neighborhood (CP)	Willowbrook Neighborhood Park	0.46
		182.83
Snake River Greenbelt	Centennial Trail	1
Snake River Greenbelt	Eagle Rock Plaza	0.465
Snake River Greenbelt	Keefer Island	1.84
Snake River Greenbelt	Milligan Pond (Pier)	1.52
Snake River Greenbelt (CP)	Capital Park	4.5
Snake River Greenbelt (CP)	John Hole Forebay	0.3
Snake River Greenbelt (CP)	Pederson Sportsman Park	0.89
Snake River Greenbelt (CP)	Eastbank	19.27
Snake River Greenbelt (CP)	Gem State Recreation Area	4
Snake River Greenbelt (CP)	Westbank	8
		41.785
Special Use/Sports	Activity Center	2.5
Special Use/Sports (CP)	Aquatic Center	2
Special Use/Sports	Civitan Plaza	0.5
Special Use/Sports	Lincoln Park	6
Special Use/Sports	Old Butte Road Soccer Complex	56
Special Use/Sports	New Old Butte Road Soccer Complex	14
Special Use/Sports	Melaleuca Field	6
Special Use/Sports	South Tourist Park	7.96
Special Use/Sports (CP)	North Tourist Park	1.18

Special Use/Sports (CP)	Recreation Center	0.5
Special Use/Sports (CP)	Rollandet Park	11.9
Special Use/Sports (CP)	Russet Noise Park	400
Special Use/Sports (CP)	Clare E. Gale Jr. High	12.2
Special Use/Sports (CP)	Eagle Rock Jr. High	10.9
Special Use/Sports (CP)	Idaho Falls High School	11.8
Special Use/Sports (CP)	Pinecrest Golf Course	114
Special Use/Sports (CP)	Sage Lakes Golf Course	143
Special Use/Sports (CP)	Sandcreek Golf Course	230
Special Use/Sports (CP)	Skyline High School	24.4
Special Use/Sports (CP)	Taylorview Jr. High	16
Special Use/Sports (CP)	Sandy Downs Rodeo Grounds	132
		1202.84
Total Park Acres		1614.455

Appendix C Park Master Plans



PARK MASTER PLAN CITY OF IDAHO FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION NOVEMBER 7, 2008



planning land works, inc.



Design Philosophy & Implementation

The selection of the Sandy Downs Park Master Plan programmatic elements took into consideration a broad cross section of feedback from the Idaho Falls local community including surveys, public hearings, the Idaho Falls Community Needs Assessment, and responses from the Town Council as well as the Parks and Recreation Department. It is the intent of the Master Plan to incorporate as many of the community needs as possible while providing flexibility for Sandy Downs to grow and change as the community and finding dictate. Implementation of the Master Plan is anticipated to take place in phases, beginning with the infrastructure and passive recreation amenities. Upon its completion, much of the park will remain open space for passive recreation.

Sandy Downs Park

Master Plan Concept
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Revised August 28, 2007

